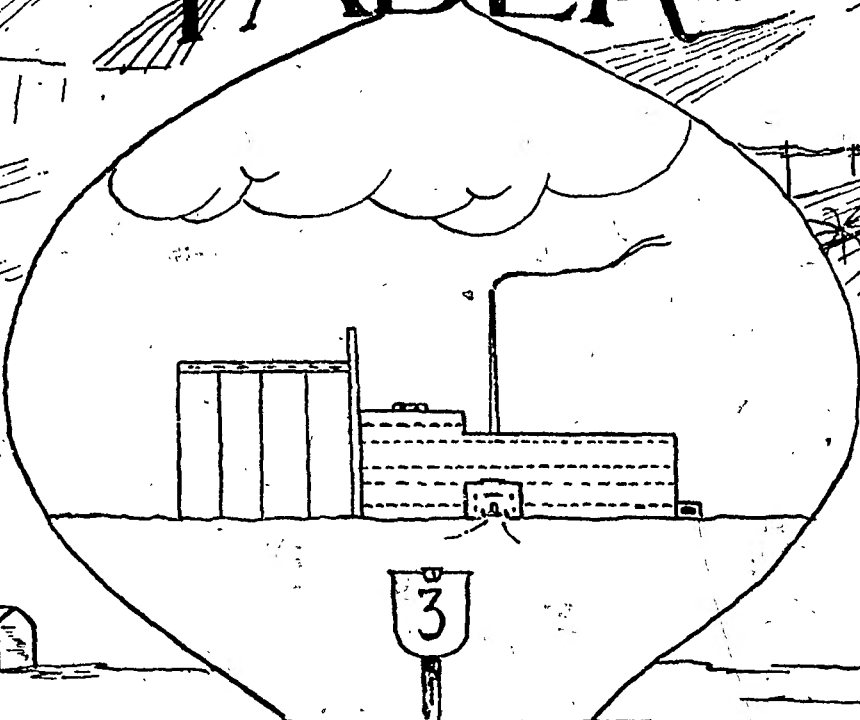


FABER



Yesterday and Today ~

Ex LIBRIS  
UNIVERSITATIS  
ALBERTAENSIS



CANADIANA

Rutherford  
F  
5797

# TABER WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

ORGANIZED IN 1912  
REORGANIZED IN 1949

Date of Commencement of Compilation of History  
JULY, 1951



---

HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY  
QUEEN ELIZABETH II

The Queen is shown with her two  
children, Princess Anne, and the Duke of  
Cornwall, the heir apparent to the throne.

---



---

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE PHILIP

Prince Philip, more commonly known  
as the Duke of Edinburgh, husband of  
Queen Elizabeth II. The royal couple  
endeared themselves to their Canadian  
subjects on the occasion of their visit to  
Canada September-October, 1951.

---



THE LATE LORD TWEEDSMUIR



LADY TWEEDSMUIR

## FOREWORD



I am so glad to hear that the Women's Institutes of Canada are compiling village history books. Events move very fast nowadays; houses are pulled down, new roads are made, and the aspect of the countryside changes completely in a short time. It is a most useful and satisfying task for Women's Institute members to see that nothing valuable is lost or forgotten, and women should be on the alert always to guard the traditions of their homes, and to see that water colour sketches and prints, poems and prose legends should find their way into these books. The oldest people in the village will tell us fascinating stories of what they remember, which the younger members can write down, thus making a bridge between them and events which happened before they were born. After all, it is the history of humanity which is continually interesting to us, and your village histories will be the basis of accurate facts much valued by historians of the future. I am proud to think that you have called them "The Tweedsmuir Village Histories."

SUSAN TWEEDSMUIR



MRS. ADELAIDE HOODLESS

Founder of the Women's Institute at Stoney Creek, Ontario.

1897



# THANK YOU . . .

---



We, the women of the Taber Women's Institute, wish to express our heartfelt appreciation and thanks to all who assisted us so greatly in the compilation of our history:

To the Lethbridge Herald, Lethbridge, Alberta, for the loan of various cuts and clippings.

To Mr. Arthur Avery, local editor, for his generous help and advice on many of the problems connected with the printing of the book.

To all those kind people: the secretaries of various clubs, lodges, churches, and many other interested citizens, without whose co-operation such an undertaking would not have been possible. Also a special thanks to those who so kindly loaned us pictures and snapshots of historical value.

To Tom Endo for the very fine artistic work on the cover.

To our assistant typists.

To our own W. I. History Committee.

Mrs. Adelaide E. Craaddock, Convenor

Mrs. John Massong, W. I. President

Mrs. C. A. Kullberg, Past President

Mrs. Thursa Russell, Past Vice-President.

Mrs. John Hector, Typist and Journalist.

## History of the Taber Women's Institute

Due to lack of information at hand, the first ten years of the Taber Women's Institute history may not be as complete as we would wish. We do know that the Institute was organized in 1912, and that it had a membership of twenty.

The first president was Mrs. W. T. Cook and the first secretary, Mrs. Robert McAllister, who held the position for a few months when Miss Agnes Paterson (now Mrs. George Danforth) took over in 1913, and continued with the work until 1917.

In addition to those members already mentioned, here are a few names as they appear on the roll call of those early days:

Mrs. S. T. McColl, Mrs. E. B. Tainter, Mrs. J. H. Robinson, Mrs. A. Cannon, Mrs. T. Hodgson, Mrs. W. E. Walker, Mrs. S. J. Bligh, Mrs. Frank Purcell, Mrs. Don Malo, Mrs. J. P. Johnson, Mrs. Bud Meacham, Mrs. W. J. Mewhinney, Mrs. Nelson Blue, Mrs. E. R. Wildman and Mrs. John Easthope.

From the early account books, we notice among the receipts entered for 1914: A charity ball which netted \$208.50; another charity ball netted \$94.00; a tag day, \$80.50; a patriotic tea, \$34.85; and \$100.00 was donated by A. J. McLean. Expenditures show \$500.00 was voted to the Hospital Board.

The Taber Flower Show was organized by the Institute and flower shows were held in 1913 and 1914.

Mrs. S. T. McColl was president in 1915 and continued in that office for three years. A great amount of war work was accomplished, commencing in September of 1914. In 1915, the group received many donations from various organizations to assist with the war work and several patriotic teas were held. Funds were utilized to purchase material which was made up into articles and sent to the Red Cross. Proceeds from a field day totalled \$142.20. Christmas cakes were made and sent to soldiers overseas.

In 1916, the members raised money for war work by various means: a tea, \$19.55; a concert, \$59.85; a prize drawing, \$29.60; July 1st celebration, \$329.70; and a tag day, \$168.10.

In 1917, total receipts for the year amounted to \$2,547.45, the largest sum shown in the records of the entire history of the Taber W. I. Among the many interesting entries, we find a Red Cross Day which brought in \$527.35, a Chautauqua collection, \$218.00; and a sale, receipts of which amounted to \$632.60. In addition, there were dances, teas, various donations, an auction, socials and tag days. The year ended with a balance of \$797.51.

In 1918, the Institute was still purchasing large amounts of wool and material to be made up for hospitals and soldiers' comforts which were not taken care of by any organization, but went direct to field men.

In 1919, there was not so much need for this group to raise money, as their war projects had been completed. The record books for this year do not show any activities other than regular meetings.

In 1920, they were buying wool and material for pneumonia jackets, another highlight of the year was the constituency conference which was held in Taber. A flower show was again a feature of the activities for 1920, and the members catered to a Masonic banquet.

The following year, 1921, was a busy year with a Valentine dance in February, a St. Patrick's dance in March, and a Bachelor's Ball in April. A plant and food sale was held that spring and a flower show in the summer.

In April of 1922, a Miss Crosbie (Public Health Nurse) gave a lecture; a Horticultural show was held in the summer, and Mr. J. Glover did some ploughing at the cemetery, making the ground ready for tree planting.

In 1923, the Institute put on a number of dances, two Carnival lunches, a Horticultural show and a tea.

In May of 1924, the trees arrived for the cemetery, and the Institute reimbursed A. Woodhouse and Albert May for doing the work of planting. The group sponsored a whist drive and a school fair. Swings were put up at the school. In 1925, Mrs. Bain was president Mrs. Long first vice-president, and Mrs. Forsyth, the secretary-treasurer.

During the year, it was decided to hold a series of dances and to continue efforts to assist in raising funds for a Swimming Pool. The group donated \$10.00 to the High School Orchestra to purchase new music.

A resolution was sent in to the Department of Public Health to have quarantine laws strictly enforced. The Taber Dramatic Society staged a play in aid of the Swimming Pool Fund. A Mr. L. D. Wright gave a talk on "Music and its Origin." Plans were made to hold a baby clinic, and a course in basketry was another featured event of this year. A hard-time dance was held, and a Fireless Cooker demonstrated.

Names in the 1925 roll call were as follows: Mrs. Bain, Mrs. A. Long, Mrs. Hourigan, Mrs. Forsyth, Mrs. Rogers, Mrs. Ted Sundal, Mrs. W. A. Blenner-Hassett, Mrs. W. R. Cook, Mrs. E. V. Rose, Mrs. Lee, Mrs. Longden, Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Tufteland, Mrs. J. H. Munro, Mrs. Wright, Mrs. L. G. Tallman, Mrs. Hudson, Mrs. W. E. Walker, Mrs. R. H. Anderson, Mrs. Good, Mrs. Jenkins, Mrs. W. Gidman, Mrs. Bennett, Mrs. Hodges, Mrs. J. Easthope, Mrs. Harris, Mrs. Bernier, Mrs. Levlane, Mrs. Neft, Mrs. A. L. Cannon, Mrs. J. H. Prowse, Mrs. H. Wood, Mrs. S. T. McColl, Mrs. Morrow, Miss Thomas, Mrs. E. Robinson, Mrs. E. J. Hussey, Mrs. E. R. Vickery, Mrs. Jas. Bell.

In 1926, Mrs. Rogers was president, Mrs. Long, 1st vice-president, and Mrs. H. Wood, secretary-treasurer. The swimming pool project was continued. Two guest speakers during the year: Dr. J. K. Bigelow spoke on Communicable Diseases, and Principal Prime of the Taber School spoke on the Co-operation of Home and School.

In 1927, Mrs. H. Wood was the president, and Mrs. Sarah Rose the secretary-treasurer. During the year a paper on gardening was given by Mrs. A. Hamman, a masquerade dance and bridge party were held, and a baby clinic sponsored and there was a tea to raise funds for the July 1st celebration. The swimming pool project was still pursued.

During 1928, Mr. Prowse gave an interesting talk on Married Women's Property Act, Mother's Allowance Act, Dowry Act, Divorce Act and Motor Vehicle Act; and a talk by World War Veteran Captain Dancy highlighted the year's activities. A child welfare clinic was held on July 16th of this same year; and playground equipment purchased for the South Side School.

Mrs. F. Porter was elected president in 1929, Mrs. A. Long was vice-president, and Mrs. McPhee, secretary-treasurer. A basketry course

was also planned for this year; a tea and pantry sale held in April, a picnic at Mrs. Porter's farm home in July, and donations were made to the Red Cross Society. There were thirty-four members in 1929. A move was underfoot to have the Taber Hospital, which was not in operation at this time, made into a Municipal Hospital for the district. A parent-teachers association was organized in November.

In 1930, the previous year's officers were re-elected. Highlights of the year were: a dental clinic, a sewing demonstration by the Singer Sewing Machine Company agent, a baby clinic, a hospital shower for the proposed new municipal hospital. Rev. Irwin spoke to the ladies on the Peace Pact.

In 1931, Mrs. L. G. Tallman was the president; Mrs. Thursa Russell, vice-president, and Mrs. McPhee was the secretary-treasurer. Of interest: a social afternoon to honor retiring officers, teas or card parties were held in various members homes, current events on World News, quilt raffle, invitation from Galt Hospital in Lethbridge to attend the opening of the new wing, the constituency conference was held in Taber in August. A petition protesting the spirit of war was signed by all Alberta Institutes and sent to the Prime Minister of Canada.

Mrs. Tallman was the president in 1932, and Mrs. Teskey the secretary. Funds were raised to be used in the beautification of the Taber cemetery and a caretaker hired to look after it.

This cemetery project was followed up for the next few years. In 1934, Mrs. Teskey was the president, Mrs. Mulhal the vice-president, and Mrs. Brown the secretary-treasurer. A dental clinic was held during the year. A "Grandmother's Day" was another event of the year, and presentations were made to Mrs. Barber the oldest grandmother present at this time and to Mrs. T. Hodgson, the youngest grandmother.

Mrs. Hosey was president in 1935, and highlights for the year were: an apron sale, members catered to a Lions Club banquet, a dinner and theatre party was held by the group, and Rev. Irwin again gave a fine talk on Education. The W. I. sponsored a school display, and a tonsil clinic.

During 1936 and 1937, much of the same work was carried on, various projects to raise funds were held, members still continued in their work of cemetery beautification under the direction of Mrs. A. Hamman. In 1937, members held a drive to raise funds for the purchase of radium to be used in the cure of cancer. The

entire organization of the Alberta Women's Institute was engaged in raising funds for this worthy cause.

Members of the group in 1937 were as follows: Mrs. P. Hosey, Mrs. O. Hall, Mrs. McPhee, Mrs. Verna Fowler, Mrs. Thos. Hodgson, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Teskey, Mrs. W. Gidman, Mrs. L. G. Tallman, Mrs. Young, Mrs. J. E. Hesketh, Mrs. T. Sundal, Mrs. A. Long, Mrs. L. T. Westlake, Mrs. Yuill, Mrs. S. Gidman, Mrs. H. Russell, Mrs. F. Porter, Mrs. Berryhill, and Mrs. A. Hamman.

In 1938, Mrs. Hesketh was elected president, and the secretary-treasurer was Mrs. Fowler. More work was done at the cemetery by the W. I. and the Boy Scouts. A "Grandmother's Day" was held with presentations being made to Mrs. Primrose, the oldest grandmother, and to Mrs. Parker, the youngest. Members celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of their organization by a supper and theatre party. Mrs. T. Sundal, the only charter member, had been a continuous member for the twenty-five years.

Members mourned the passing of one of their number, Mrs. Fred S. Porter. Mrs. Porter came to Alberta with her family early in the spring of 1917, from Oregon. She had been active in the Kinniburgh district as a member of the school board, and was president of the Kinniburgh W. I. Mrs. Porter had been the instigator of baby clinics in the Kinniburgh and Taber districts, which led to her appointment as provincial convenor of child welfare for the W. I. She also served for a time on the Provincial advisory board of the Red Cross, and had also been an active worker in the United Church.

In 1939, the programmes were highlighted by addresses on "Town Affairs" by Mayor J. E. Evanson, on the subject of "Teachers" by Mr. Teskey and on "Cancer" by Dr. Tuttle. Mrs.

Warren of Grassy Lake gave a paper on Legislation. A Lady Tweedsmuir Library had arrived and Mrs. H. Russell acted as librarian.

Items of interest during 1940 were a talk on "Social Education" by Bishop H. Wood. A picnic was held at River Park, and Father C. J. Lyons gave an interesting Christmas message. Members mourned another of their number. Mrs. Sylvia Gidman, who passed away on December 2nd, 1940.

In 1941, the president was Mrs. Fowler and the secretary-treasurer was Mrs. McKay. At the January meeting, Miss Valgardson gave a talk on the Hawaiian Islands. Various donations were made to the Red Cross. The Constituency conference was again held in Taber, with the Kinniburgh and Chin groups assisting. A prize was awarded in the English class of the High School.

All through these twenty-eight years, there has been a complete slate of convenors for each year, Education and Better Schools, Home Economics, Child Welfare, Immigration, Canadianization, Agriculture, Publicity and Legislation; and at approximately eight meetings a year, an interesting and instructive paper or demonstration has been given.

Delegates were sent to Provincial and District Constituency Conferences and brought back fine reports and new ideas for the home Institute.

For lack of space, we have not mentioned many who helped to make these meetings more interesting, local talent with their solos, duets, musical numbers, readings and book reviews. The school children also added their bit occasionally with songs, recitations and dances.

At the close of the year 1941, the Taber Women's Institute decided to disband due to a lack of interest prevalent at this time.



## Taber Women's Institute Reorganized

On September 22nd, 1948, fourteen interested women met at the home of Mrs. C. A. Kullberg for a reorganization meeting of the Taber Women's Institute. A few of those present had been members of the original branch. Officers elected were: Mrs. C. A. Kullberg, president;



Old Fashions Day at W.I. 1951.

Mrs. E. H. Price, first vice-president; Mrs. A. J. Stuart, second vice-president; Miss Sadie Brown, secretary and Mrs. Evan Hall, treasurer. Directors elected were Mrs. H. P. Addy and Mrs. O. Hall.

Since 1948, membership has increased to some 40 members. The group has been active in many worthwhile causes, especially in connection with the Red Cross Blood Donor Clinic which is held in Taber annually. A delegate was sent to "Blueprint for Action", a cancer school held at Banff in the spring of 1950. Delegates have also been sent to all constituency district and provincial conferences. Convenors of the standing committees have been active in their special programs.

The following speakers contributed to programs since 1948:

Dr. J. H. Muth on "Cancer" who showed two moving pictures on this subject.

Dr. J. R. Enman on "New Drugs".

Mr. F. M. Pritchard, barrister, on "Wills".

Mr. L. T. Westlake on "Schools".

Miss E. Underdahl on "Education".

Miss E. A. Reavley on "English and Art."

Miss L. Lowe, District Home Economist on "Nutrition".

Mr. R. F. Gibb on "Sugar Making".

Mr. J. Landysheff on "Landscaping".

Constable G. Hacking on his Police Dog, "Smokey".

Mr. Nicholson Panel Donor Organizer for the Red Cross on Blood Donor Clinic, showing film "Miracle Fluid".

Mrs. Myron Kemper on "Canadianization".

Miss Evelyn Taylor (Mrs. Robert MacAuly) "Home Economics".

The second Sunday in February is Institute Sunday at which time the members attend service in a body attending a different church each year.

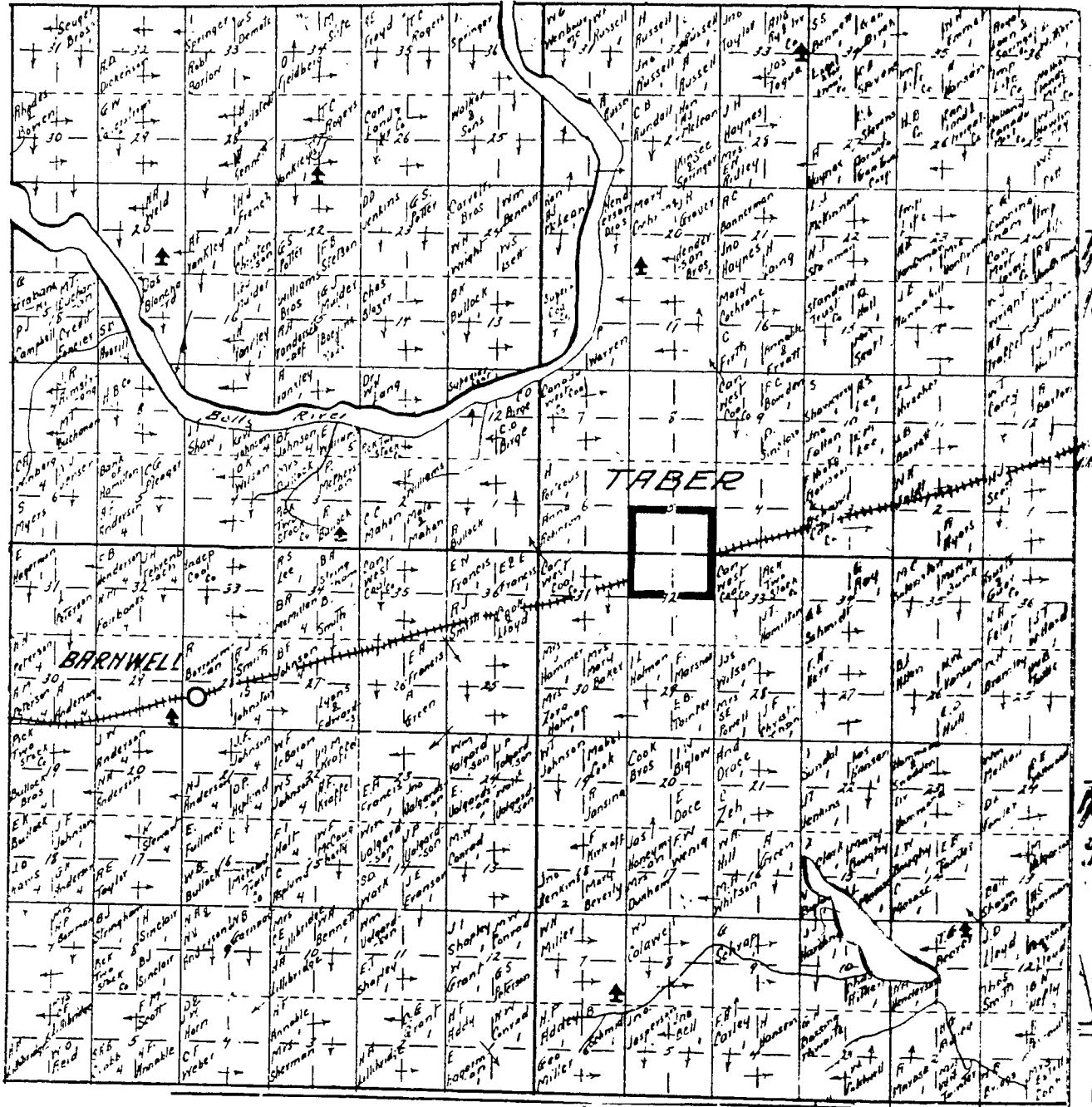
In 1951 a prize was given to grade eight for the best essay on "Industries of Alberta", this prize was won by Wesley Warren. A prize was also given for the best entry in Grade nine Art. this prize was won by Sat Maruyama.

Plans were made for a flower show then cancelled on account of the hailstorm in the district.

In addition, there have been many social events, and genuine friendships made.

For the past few months, we have been working on our latest project, "Taber, Yesterday, and Today". The co-operation among members is of the highest order, as they all work together for Home and Country.

MAP OF TABER TOWNSHIP



R.17

W. of 4th M.

R.16

## A Glimpse Into Our History

In the next few pages, we shall attempt to trace the history of our town through the years to its present status. For much of this history, we have delved into columns of old newspapers, and have also relied for a good bit of it on the memories of the few remaining old timers.

This, then, is the story of a town whose beginning was a water tank, and the population of which has fluctuated through the years to a present population of a little over three thousand residents, and where a large sugar factory, in its greyish splendour, is outlined against the Western sky. The situation of our town is appropriately described as being "in the heart of Canada's sugar bowl". This description pertains to much of Southern Alberta, on which territory the Sun and Providence has indeed smiled kindly.

While little is known of the history of Taber before the coming of the early settlers, there is no doubt that where this thriving town now stands the buffalo once roamed. We have read that in 1884 a large party of Blood Indians in their full war paint travelled along the route of the present irrigation canal. Numerous Indian relics have been found in many locations.

In the year, 1885, the Northwest Coal and Navigation Company of Lethbridge, in an effort to market their coal, built a narrow gauge railway to Dunmore which was on the main line of the C.P.R. A water tower was installed with a pumping unit at the river, which water tower was referred to as No. 77, being 77 miles from the eastern junction of the railway near Medicine Hat.

In the early spring of 1903, the Hull family of Utah, decided to travel to a new land and having heard of the possibilities and opportunities for betterment in Alberta, Canada, they decided to come to this land. They left their homes in Utah, and travelled by covered wagon, bringing their household effects with them. They arrived in Stirling, Alberta, in the early summer, and not finding anything to suit them there, they decided to move on. These settlers had been told that

land was thrown open by the Government for homesteading in this district and so they came across country from Stirling, stopping at the only landmark there was here; namely the C. P. R. water tank. Liking the looks of this land they decided to settle here. They chose the land they wanted, and then went into Lethbridge to file their claims to their homesteads, in the land titles office there. Then they went back to Stirling, and brought their families and household effects over to this district, pitching their tents, and taking up the business of homesteading. It has been established that the first settlers were the Hull family, James, Tom, and John Jr., and the Sherwood family. These newcomers were followed closely in the same year by J. E. Evanson, R. A. VanOrman, William Probert, W. F. Russell and A. L. Wood.

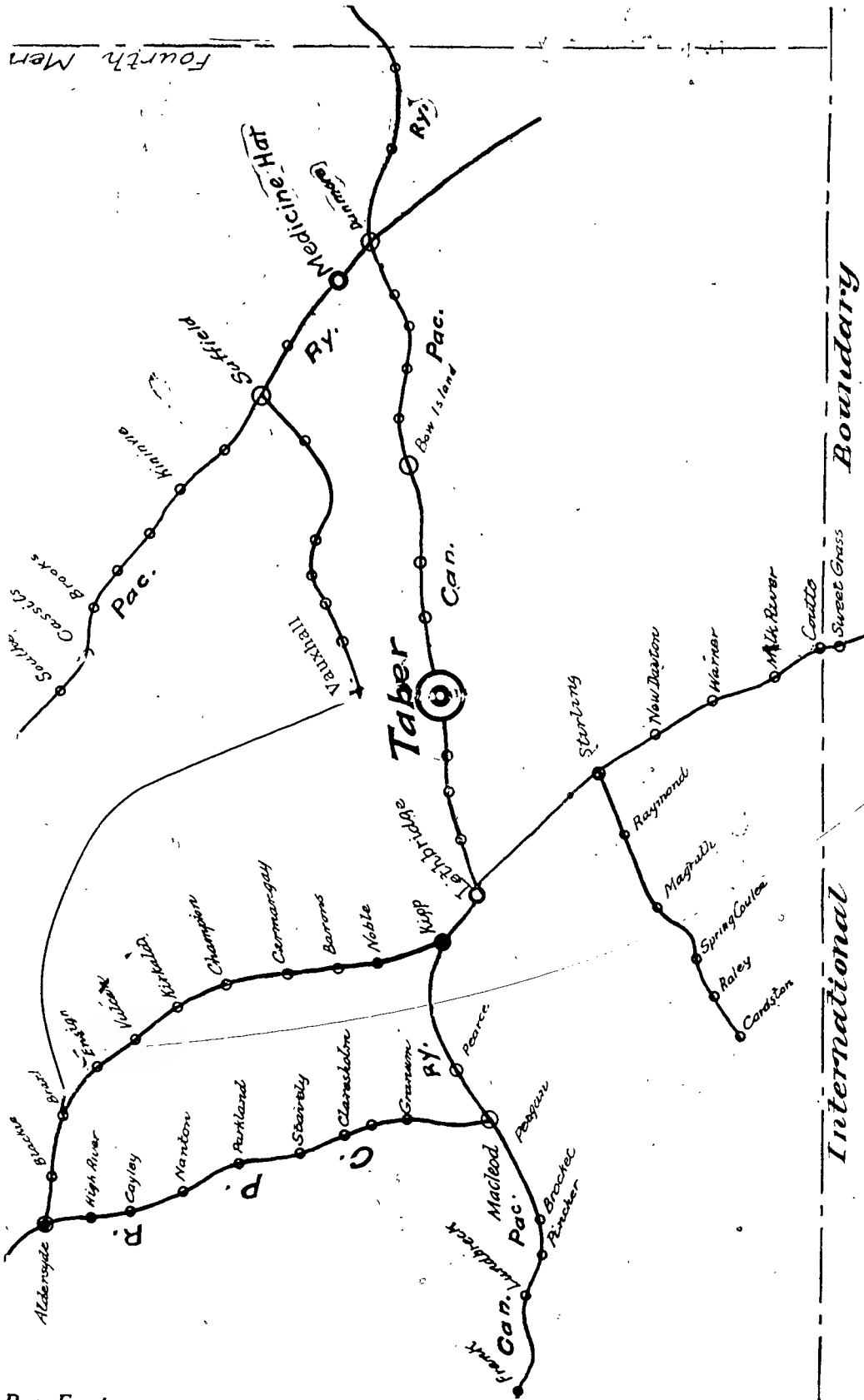
The first residence was built on the present site of Taber by James Hull, and he later built a small store. In 1903, the C.P.R. put in a spur track. The first baby was born to the Differding family in September of the same year. At that time, the Differdings were living in a tent, as their house had not been completed, so one of the new buildings, which were going up at this time, was commandeered as an emergency hospital, and Dr. W. S. Galbraith of Lethbridge travelled to Taber by freight train to be present at the birth.

In 1904, more settlers began to arrive. Among these early pioneers, we find the names of Walker, Wing, Larsen, Bennett, Scott, Aaron Johnson, Barton, Lindsay, Francis; and a year or two later the Quibells, the Laytons, the Colletts, the Stringhams, Joe Newell, the Bullocks, the Englesons, the Wilcox family, the Southworths, the Burbanks, Haycocks, the Scovilles and Gerbers.

With the arrival of these settlers, there came a need for business enterprise — John Barton opened up a lumber yard and implement business, George Lee a blacksmith shop, and J. Newell started a store — later selling out to John Truswell. S. J. Layton sold farm machinery, and later became the first magistrate in



MAP OF TABER AND SURROUNDING DISTRICT





Taber. Aaron Johanson was the first post-master. In 1904 coal deposits at Taber were investigated, and the Dome tie Coal Company was organized. Two million dollars of outside capital set up the Canada West Coal line — with the first prospect shaft being drilled on August 4th, 1904. This however, was later abandoned owing to the presence of earth in the seam. Coal was mined in the spring of 1905, the tippie was constructed during the summer months, and the first coal was shipped by rail from Taber in August of 1905. We have traced the history of coal mining in our district, in another section of our book, but we might mention that the presence of coal in this district was perhaps one of the reasons why so many of these settlers decided to locate at Taber.

In the hustle and bustle of settling, the social side of life was not forgotten. Thomas Hull had a large tent which he erected with the walls and floor built of lumber. In this tent, the pioneers held their church services, and social gatherings. Organ music for the church services was played by Cora Wing, and music for dances was supplied by Peter J. Larsen and his violin, with his son accompanying him on the organ.

Samuel Francis built a large barn, and lived in it until his house was ready for occupancy. This barn, being larger than the Hull tent, church services were held in it, and then later in the school, after its construction.

Newell's store stood on the north east corner of what is now the High School and Dormitory grounds. Josephine Francis Russell was his first clerk. This store was a department store, where one could buy groceries, dry goods and hardware. Later William Probert and A. L. (Bert) Wood built a store one block south of Newell's store. Mr. Probert later sold his share in the business to Byard Smith, and years later the Smith and Wood store was moved to the present business section of Taber, where it is now known as Platt's Furniture Store.

### ORIGIN OF NAME

There are many discredited versions of the name for the Town of Taber, but the one usually accepted is that it was named for Mt. Tabor in Palestine. However, the story is told that when the C.P.R. established a station with an operator, the stationery, and various forms came through with the name printed "Taber", and the name given the station was Taber. When the settlement was incorporated, the name was changed to Taber, making the name

of the town and the post office uniform with the records of the C.R.P.

The following was taken from the Gazette of the North West Territories of March 1905, Regina:

Regina, -March 15th, 1905

"Under the provisions of the Village Ordinance, His Honor the Lieutenant Governor, by and with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to order the establishment of Section 5, Township 10, Range 16, west of the 4th Meridian, as a Village under the name of Tabor; that Monday the third day of April, 1905, be the day fixed for the election of the overseer of the said village; and that W. F. Russell of Tabor, Alberta, be appointed to act as returning officer at the said election."

The trustees of the original town site were W. F. Russell, R. A. VanOrman, and William Probert; and the first village supervisor was William Probert. Taber's coal boom was in 1905, with over 300 people being employed at the mines. In addition to the Canada West Mine, small mining concerns sprang up all over the countryside and such names as White Ash, Reliance, Superior, Rock Springs, Monarch, Eureka, Golden West, and Majestic became familiar.

Many new businesses sprang up, including the Taber Hotel, built by James Hull. During the year of 1905, also, the first Presbyterian Church was built with Rev. Shearer in charge. This church served people of the Protestant faith for miles around.

Home Dramatics and plays became a part of the entertainment of the pioneers in the early days. Aaron Johnson was a drama director and actor and he directed the first home drama. Some of the first playactors were Milton Scott, Frank Johnson, Rose Francis, Maggie Layton, then later, Charles Edwards, Nora Collett, Eliza Hansen, Hazen Walton, Helma VanOrman, and others, whose names have slipped from the memory of our raconteur.

These home talent plays used to be presented in other towns such as Stirling, Raymond and Magrath, and the players travelled to these towns in covered wagons, and later with horse and buggy.

Baseball and basketball were other forms of entertainment of the settlers. Taber had one of the best baseball teams in the country at that time. Roy and Art Lee, H. Evans and Charles and James Walker were among the baseball players. Basketball stars were Charles Edwards, the Walker boys, Evan Evan-on and Heber Russell.

The first school was built in 1904. Mrs. Lottie Stringham opened the first ice cream parlor just north of the Smith and Wood store. Jack Shirts built and managed the first recreation hall, known as The Opera House. This building was used for social functions in the town, and also used as a roller skating rink.

In 1906, Mr. E. N. Harding opened a harness shop, and he holds the distinction of being in business for the longest period of time in Taber.

town of Taber, and John Truswell became the first mayor; with the first councillors being J. Barton, A. Beck, F. R. Davis, W. W. Douglas and P. Hammer. The year, 1907, saw Taber expand to a population of 1000; its expansion being concurrent with the rapid development of the coal mines in this area.

During this year, also a new subdivision was added to the town which is now known as the South Side. By the year, 1907, too, there was a fast-growing business section, two meat markets, Harding's harness shop, three lumber yards, two clothing stores, two livery stables, one bank, one funeral home, four churches, several real estate agencies — one being owned by W. Brusa Grubb. There were three blacksmith shops, one newspaper, the Taber Free Press; in addition to the various mines which were being developed.



Senior Baseball Team — 1907

Mr. Harding is still carrying on business, operating a provincial license bureau, and a sporting goods store. The Union and Royal Hotels were built in 1906. The Taber Furniture Store was opened in 1906, with T. Powell and E. Venville as joint owners. Mr. Powell died in 1918, and his partner carried on the business alone. In 1922, Mr. E. J. Hussey joined the staff, and took over the ownership from Mr. Venville in 1932. In 1950, Mr. Walter I. Nielson became the owner, and carries on a first-class furniture business in this large city-size store.

In 1907, the village of Taber became the

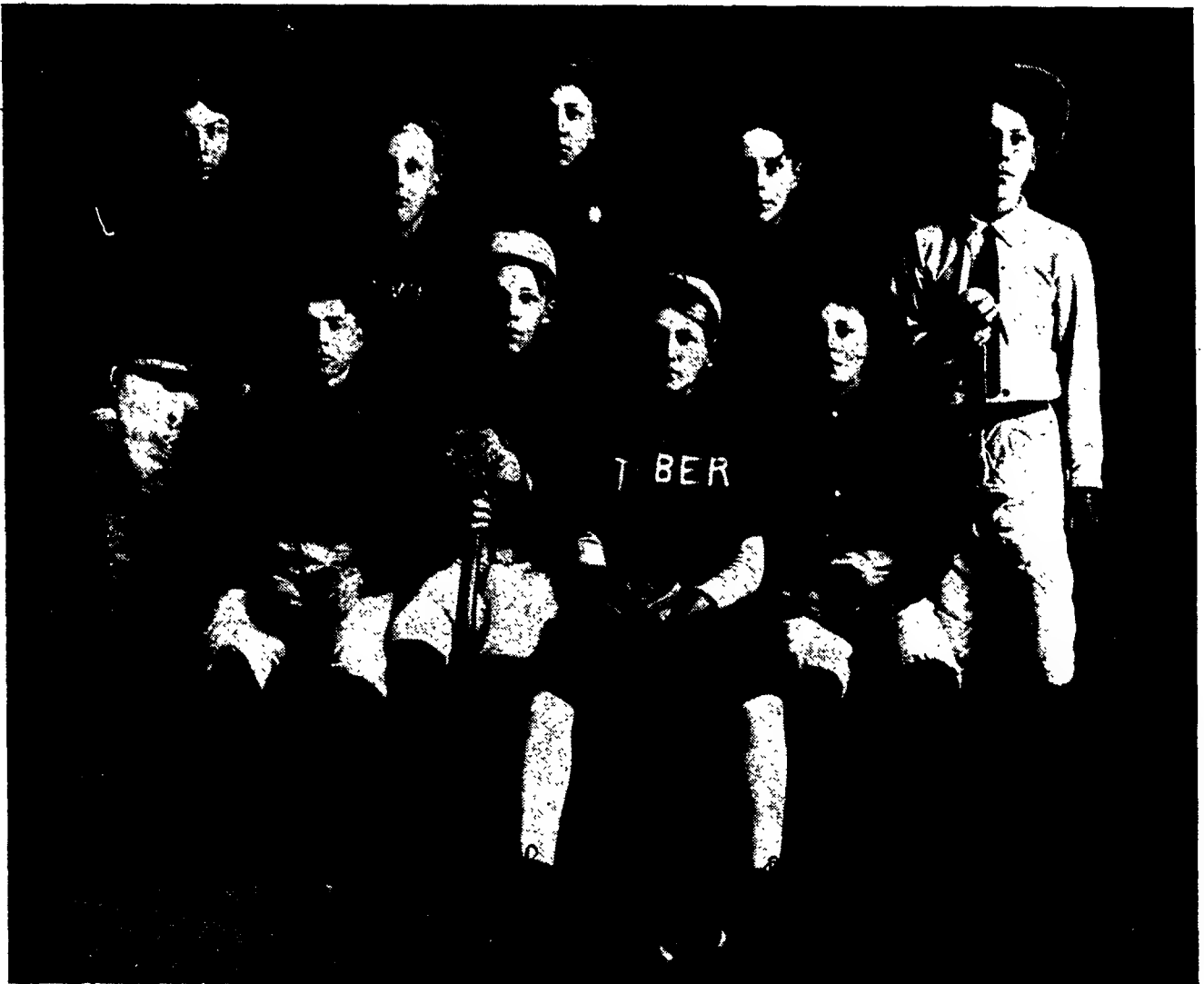
In 1907, one would often hear the remark "Taber is such a scattered town". It was really scattered in 1907, with a bare stretch of prairie extending right through it, from east to west. The adherents to the faith of the Latter Day Saints church lived north of this bare strip of prairie, having discovered they could get water almost anywhere in the north section, at a depth of about eighteen feet. They all had several acres of land, so they really occupied as much territory as is occupied in the North End at the present time, with perhaps about one fourth of the population.

Across the street from R. H. Anderson's present home, there were two wells, their owner was always on the job and two tanks were kept busy filling the water barrels and cisterns of the residents on the south side of town, and those living in the business section near the railway. Twenty-five cents per barrel was the rate charged.

The real estate men, and livery stables did a rushing business with their two and three seat hacks, and their fast driving horses. Whenever a parcel of land was opened up for sale, or for

homesteads, they would gather up their prospective buyers and homesteaders, and take them out to look over the area. The land was advertised near and far, and the railway offered attractive rates to buyers and to settlers moving in.

The greater part of the men were employed in the various mines. The mines ran three shifts in the twenty-four hours, and when the shifts changed, a miner in his work clothes, carrying his lunch bucket, his miner cap and lamp on his head and with his face and hands



JUNIOR BASEBALL TEAM — 1908

Upper Row: A. Walker, C. Loomis, J. Edwards, Hazen Walton, Russell.

Lower Row: T. Walker, Shirts boy, A. Stringham, E. Stringham.

bearing traces of black coal dust was a familiar sight on the streets of Taber. The mines seemed quite safe; there were very few accidents.

In 1907, a dozen or more large square, two-storey, eight roomed houses were built at the Canada West Mine, to take care of the miners and their families and from two to four families lived in one house.

The same year, the school was built at the mine, and Mrs. Geo. Palfrey was one of the first teachers. It was later moved to the location on the south side, where it was used as a school for a number of years.

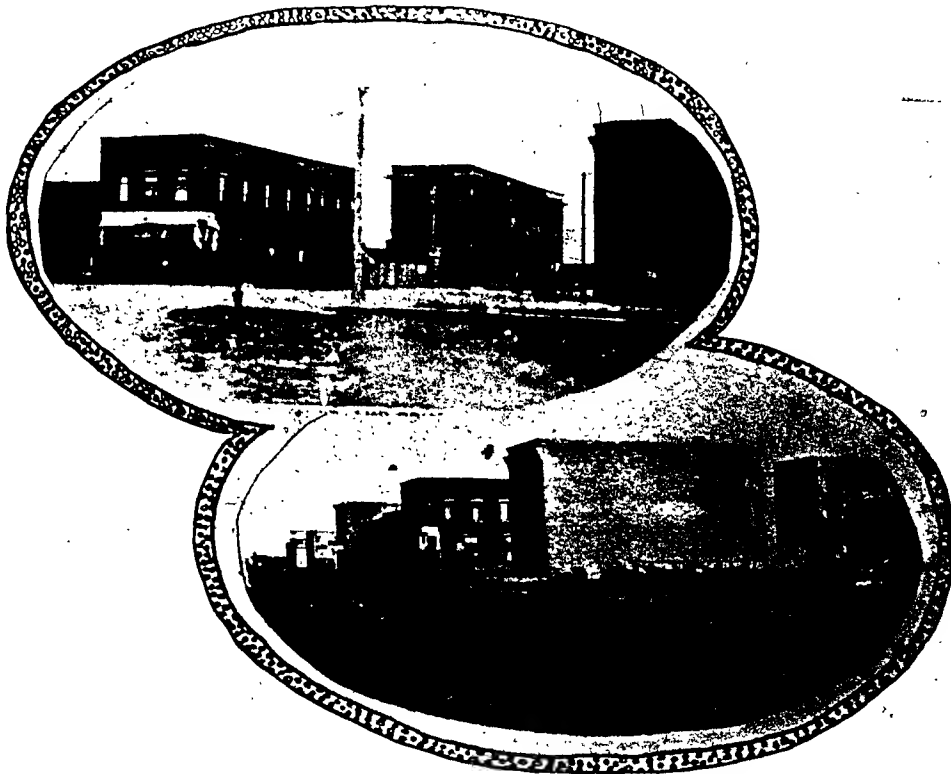
In 1907, the Reliance Mine east of Taber, built cottages for their miners to live in. They were one-storey houses, and built to accommodate one family. They were all painted white, and had a bay window front, rather cute, but someone that knew said they were very cold. Some years later when the mine closed, the cottages were sold, moved from their original site, and may still be seen here and there, both in and out of town.

Occasionally, a group of Indians would visit Taber and camp for a few days. They had for sale beaded moccasins and leather jackets, buffalo horns mounted for hat rack and rattle snake skin belts. It was a familiar sight to see them bargaining with the land seekers.

Cars which appeared in the district as early as 1908 and 1909 belonged to E. S. Bowden who had a red run-about, and P. Hammer had a red Buick brought in from the U. S. A.

The first gas tractor was brought to Taber in 1908 by H. N. Barrett and Frank Doering. They broke up many acres of prairie land and they owned a threshing machine, and threshed everywhere in the district.

The settlers and ranchers living north of Taber had to cross the river on the ferry. The flood in June of 1909 washed the ferry boat away, took it to Grassy Lake. The flood also carried away thousands of dollars worth of material which had been hauled to the river bottom in preparation for the bridge work to start when



Street scenes and business blocks where in 1906 was bald prairie.

the water was low. It delayed construction work for many months.

The boss in charge of the construction crew had built a large shack for his family. The crew had also built cook houses and bunk houses and shops. These buildings were located on what is now the baseball diamond, west of the approach to the bridge. The water rose over night, and covered all the river bottom from hill to hill, a mad, raging torrent. All one could see of the buildings at the height of the flood was the roofs. The trees were washed loose at the roots, and toppled over all lying one way. All that week, the river was the most popular place in the community. The bridge was built in 1909 and 1910.

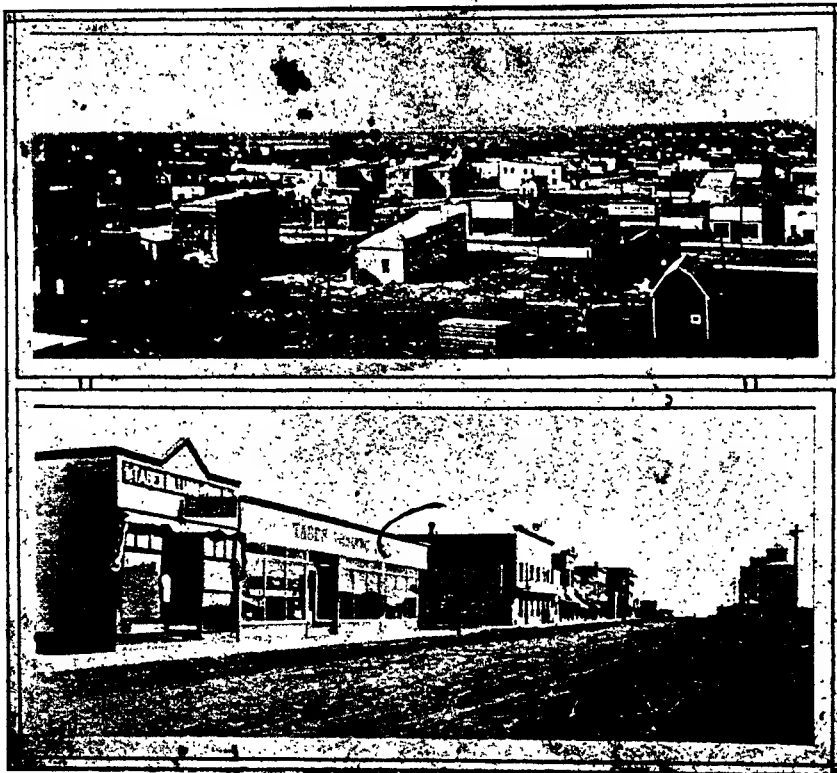
On a trip through Taber's business section in 1909, we saw: in the north east quarter of the town Smith and Wood's store, Stringham's Ice Cream Parlour, Harding's Harness Shop, the Boarding House, and off to the south west Shirts' Roller Rink and Dance Hall.

On the present site of the Taber Chalets, we

came across Vickery's clothing store, E. S. Bowden Grocery, Claude's Candy Shop, a Barber Shop, Edwards and Wing Paint, and across the street the Royal Hotel, George Loomis' undertaking establishment, then just around the corner south and west we had; J. Truswell's general store (with Taber spelled "TABOR" high up on the front); Shiell's Hardware, and Jett's Meat Market. Across the street and farther west, we saw Powell and Stephenson, Sexton, S. J. Layton, Jim Bud — dry cleaning, and McDonald's second hand store.

On Hough Street: Joe How restaurant, Powell Furniture Store, Whites Drug Store, and across the street, Hill's Hardware, a livery stable, Fred J. Schall Furances; B. W. Wright, Jewellery; Abbot's Studio, and Beck's Bakery, Reilley's Barber Shop and Pool Hall.

On Railway Street there was the Palace Hotel, W. W. Douglas Store, the Post Office, Eastern Township Bank, a restaurant, Campbell and Anderson clothing store; Frank Davis, Tailor; and Westlake's Stationery, Malo and Green's butcher shop, George Millar, town clerk, and the Taber Hotel at the end of the block. In the



VIEW OF BUSINESS SECTION 1910 - 1911

## TABER — YESTERDAY AND TODAY

distance, the little Knox Presbyterian church may be seen.

We cross the railroad track, and as we travel east on what is now No. 3 Highway, we pass by the Union Hotel, Yancy Real Estate Office, McAskill Grocery, Chas. Grey Flour and Feed Store, E. B. Tainter's Livery Stable, MacMillan's Liquor Store with Cousin's Hall above.

In a March, 1910, copy of the Taber Advertiser, we notice that 110 cars of settlers' effects were unloaded in Taber in March of 1910.

Taber's first blacksmith shop was operated

by Mr. J. J. McLellan until 1909, when it was taken over by A. Mitchell with Tom Paterson in charge. Later the same year the two brothers Tom and Bob Paterson bought out the business, which they operated for thirty-five years, and then it closed down.

R. D. Shiell's built a new hardware store about 1909 on a site near where the Social Hall now stands. The building was later taken over by Jim Douglas Hardware and moved. Later on it housed the Golden Prairie Dairy, then Fletcher's Clothing Store, and latterly the Taber branch of the Bank of Nova Scotia.

In 1912, the telephone rates were \$30.00 per



RAILWAY STREET, TABER — 1907

W. W. Douglas — Taber Trading Company; Post Office; Eastern Townships Bank; Davis Tailor Shop; Westlake's Jewellery; Campbell and Anderson Clothing Store; Green and Malo Butcher Shop; G. C. Millar, Town Clerk's Office; Mah Han and Mah Jack Restaurant; Peter Hammer's Land Office; Taber Hotel; and in the distance, the Knox Presbyterian Church.

year for business phones, and \$18.00 for residence phones, with connections to over 150 local subscribers, and to rural and long distance lines, which touched nearly every town and city in the province. Connected with the local telephone exchange, were rural lines on which there were nearly eighty individual telephones, which provided telephone communication between town and country. Old timers recall Bill Wellington and Ben Olson who were engaged in the repairing of telephone lines in the early days. They used a motorcycle as a means of travel to work on various parts of the telephone lines.

Taber now has approximately 500 local telephones, and 200 rural telephones. Mr. Arthur Hetherington is in charge of the local office of the Alberta Government Telephones, while Miss Edith Shannon is the chief operator. A fine new building to house the local telephone system is under construction as we go to press, and when the building is ready for occupancy, the whole system will be changed over to the dial system.

The Royal Hotel, which had been built in 1906, and operated by Jack Irvine, was moved from two blocks east to the present site in 1927 by Frank Bonette. It was remodelled and added to during the same year.

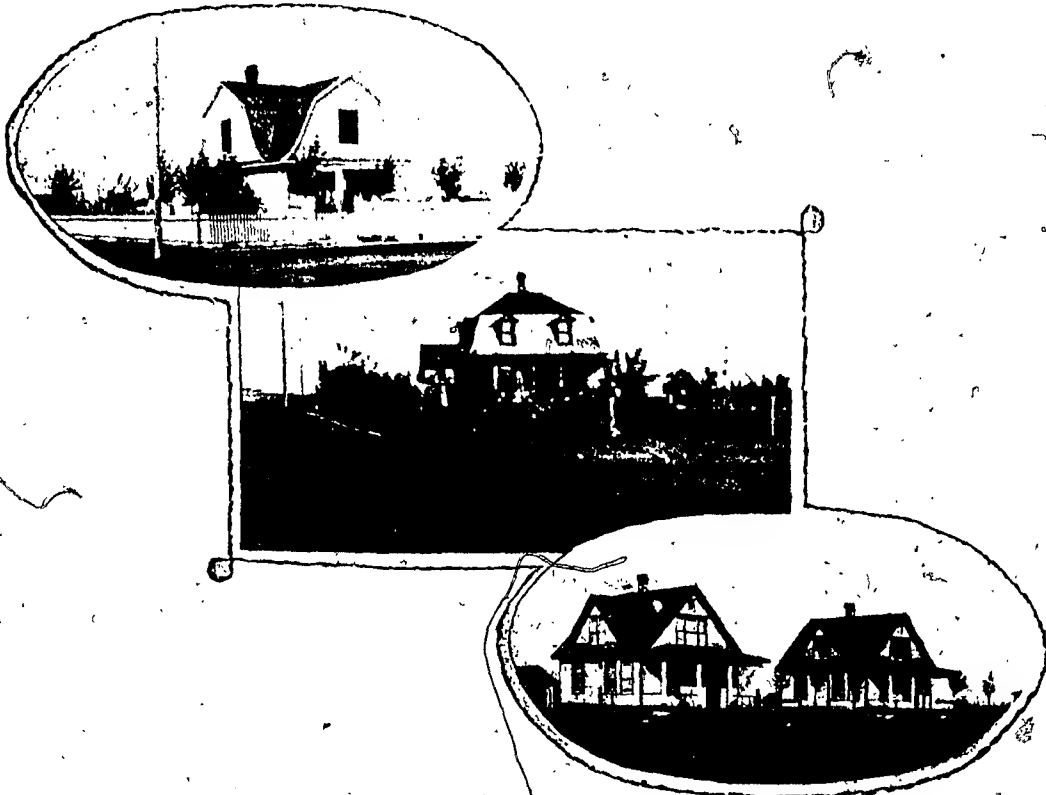
In 1909, a group of doctors, lawyers, and

professors in the Town of Walton, New York, U. S. A., formed a company known as the Alberta Grain Raising Company, and purchased three and half sections of land in Alberta from a real estate firm in Minneapolis, Minn. U. S. A. They sent out one, Mr. O. L. Penfield, as foreman and three other men as assistants to farm the land. These three men were: Mr. David Shaw, Mr. Chauncey Ogden, and Mr. R. F. MacGibbon. They were hired chiefly to operate the steam engine, which was the popular type of farm power at that time for plowing and harvesting. This venture proved to be quite successful for a time, and soon others from the state of New York came to Alberta, with their families, to reside. Among this group of people were S. A. Fenton, T. G. Johnston, C. C. Campbell, J. W. Johnson, James Ballantyne, Walter Ballantyne, Arthur Campbell, to name a few.

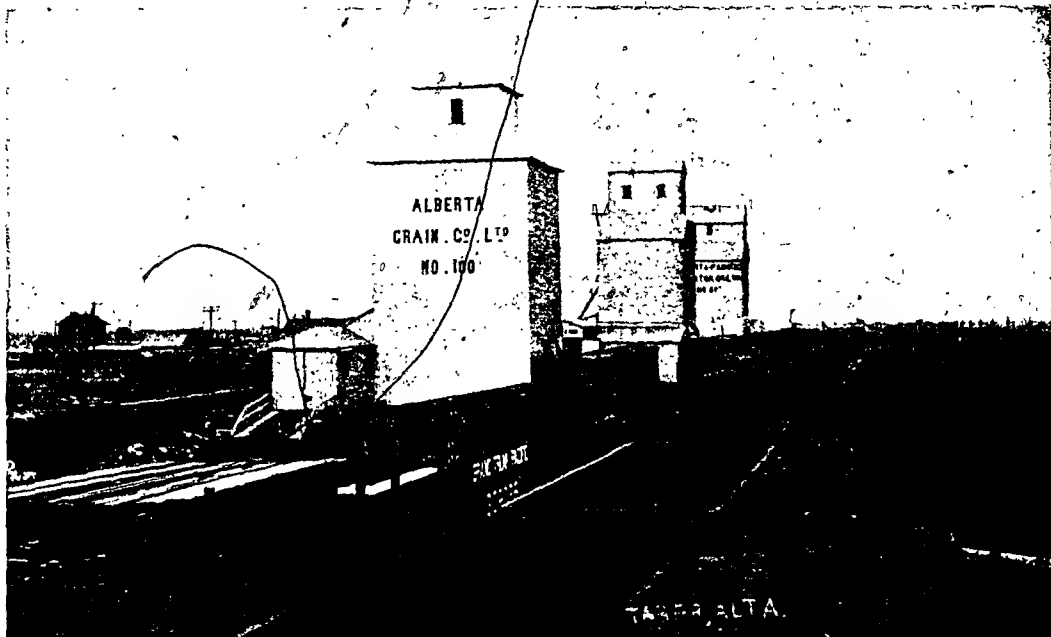
By the end of 1910, the business section of Taber was mainly centred in its present location. Other highlights of the year 1910 were the installation of the water system; and the gas well drilling which had been commenced the previous year proved unsuccessful. The year 1910 was a poor one from an agricultural point of view, while 1911 was a bumper-crop year, with two million bushels of wheat being marketed. Following the bumper year, a slump ensued. Many of the miners left the Taber district to go to Drumheller coal fields, where coal was being



A Section of Railway Street — 1907 - 1908



Top — Built by P. Hammer in 1909, now Albert Green's home. Centre — Built by H. N. Barrett in 1907, now W. Williams home. Bottom — Built by Campbell and Anderson in 1910.



C.P.R. Yards and Elevators, Looking East.



---

## TABER — YESTERDAY AND TODAY

---

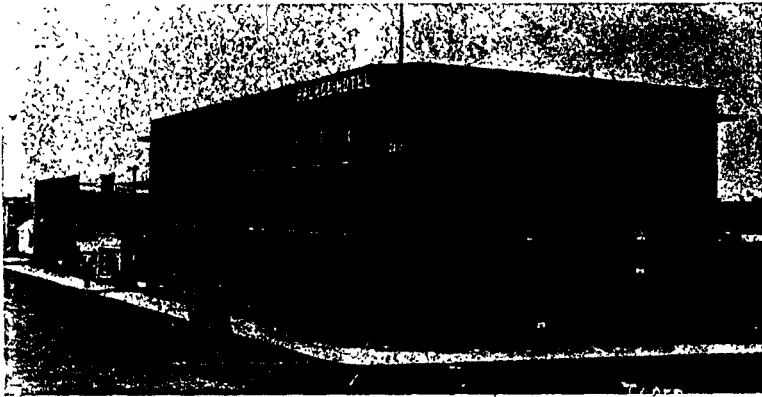
mined more economically. From this point, the coal business in Taber started to fall away. Also, during this time many of the farms were abandoned, and during 1913 and 1914, the town was at a very low ebb.

Came the war, and many of Taber's valiant sons were called to the colors, and the Taber people at home also made their contribution. W. Brush Grubb, Taber pioneer, was the leader in war work during those four years. The constituency of Taber is said to have led all the rural ridings of the province in the amount of its contribution of war causes.

The year, 1920, was highlighted by irrigation

coming to the district. Farmers reduced grain acreage, and more vegetables, root crops, and feed were produced. We have set aside a section of our history for the story of irrigation, and it appears several pages hence.

By the year 1925, many of the farmers went into growing of sugar beets. In 1927, there was an influx of European beet laborers, and in 1942 many Japanese people came to the district to do some of the intensified labor connected with the growing of sugar beets. Still later, after the war many Polish and Dutch families were brought in from Europe as displaced persons to assist with the sugar beet work. In 1950, the Canadian Sugar Factories Limited, completed their modern factory in Taber.



---

PALACE HOTEL

1908 - 1909

---

---

AN EARLY HARVEST SCENE

---



## NATURAL GAS

The Bow Island Natural gas wells were drilled in 1911. In 1911 and 1912 gas from these wells was piped to Calgary through a sixteen inch main, which is still in use. In 1924 the Foremost field was discovered and connected with Bow Island to increase the gas supply.

This gas pipe line passes through Taber and in 1929 Taber began the use of natural gas to heat homes and business places and used also, in cooking ranges. Great quantities are con-

sumed by Canadian Sugar Factories and Cornwall Canning Company here.

Natural gas has since been located at Okotoks and Turner Valley which helps out the supply in this district at the present time. The Canadian Western Natural Gas Company, Limited, supply gas to eight hundred and fifty consumers at Taber, with very efficient and cheerful service by Mr. O. M. Koch, town agent, and Mr. A. N. Cousins, assistant.

The McLean Bridge, Taber, Alta.



Bridge replacing ferry, built across the Oldman River in 1909-1910.

Gas Tractor Hauling Eight Loads of Wheat



PHOTO BY LOEHR

## OUR CIVIC GOVERNMENT

Mention has already been made of the first Mayor and Council. A list of Taber's mayors follow: John Truswell, W. W. Douglas, A. Beck, Don Malo, John T. Willard, J. J. Hourigan, E. R. Vickery, Wm. Gidman, J. E. Evanson, L. T. Westlake, Jas. Hansen, J. E. Evanson, Douglas Miller and Edward Browne.

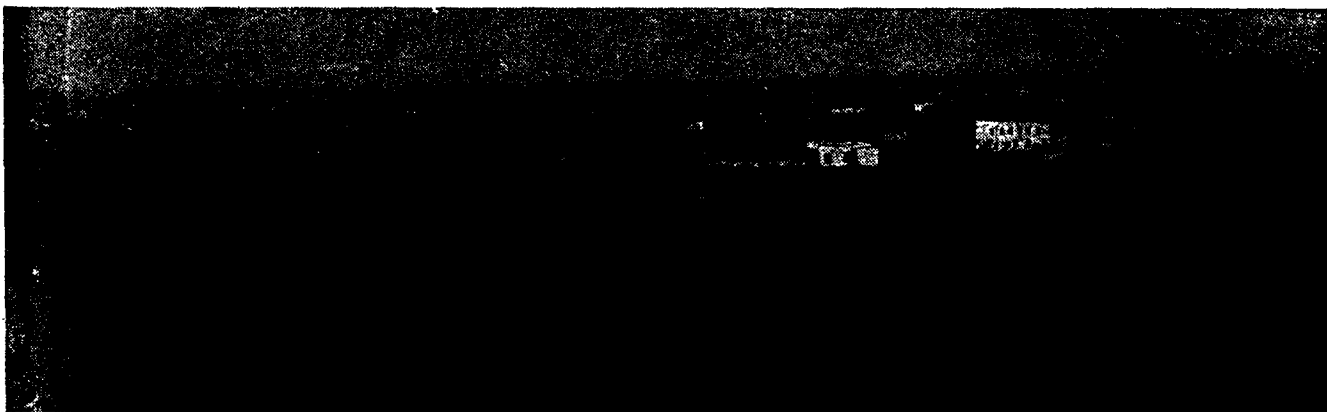
The present civic administration is under the direction of Edward Browne, and councillors William Williams, William Park, Wallace

McDonald, David Gardner, Ted Sundal and Wilford W. Hill.

The first meeting of the Town Council was held on July 30th, 1907. R. P. Wallace, a lawyer, was made secretary-treasurer pro tem. George C. Millar being the first permanent secretary-treasurer. He was succeeded in 1918 by Samson Sanderson who held the position until 1949, when he was succeeded by Harold E. Ellis who holds the position at the present time.



THE BASEBALL GAME



Bird's Eye View of Taber in 1907

## History of Electrical Power Service

The history of electric power service in the town of Taber almost parallels the development of the town.

In the early days Taber was without electric service of any kind until 1908. From 1908 to 1913, a flat rate of 50 cents per month per lamp and a dollar per month charge for the use of an iron was in effect. While this rate was not particularly high, only restricted service to a few hours a day was provided.

The rates from 1913 to the present time actually reflect the growth of the town.

Shown below is a table setting forth the charge made for domestic service for 50 kwh per month for the period as mentioned above:

### DOMESTIC SERVICE

#### **Service Supplied by Canada West Coal Company**

1913 Charge for 50 kilowatt hours per month 8.50

1926 Charge for 50 kilowatt hours per month 7.60

#### **Service Supplied by Calgary Power Company**

1928 Charge for 50 kilowatt hours per month 5.00

1945 Charge for 50 kilowatt hours per month 4.90

1946 Charge for 50 kilowatt hours per month 2.60

1951 Charge for 50 kilowatt hours per month 2.75

(There is a slight increase in 1951, due to increased wages and material costs.)

Taber is very fortunately situated from the power supply point of view to meeting the requirements of power for all types of service — domestic, commercial, or industry.

Recently an agreement was reached between

the Calgary Power Ltd. and the city of Medicine Hat, whereby a new power plant, capable of producing 40,000 hp. will be constructed. The plant will use natural gas for producing steam to power the steam turbo-generators. A good part of this power can be made available to the Taber district for industry, which may be attracted to the town or the surrounding area.

In addition, a high-powered transmission line is now being constructed, which will connect the huge West Kootenay power system with the Calgary Power system in the Crow's Nest Pass. This new inter-connection, together with the power available from the Medicine Hat plant, will provide better continuity of service for Taber. It will also make available, additional power to industry at attractive rates. Industry is attracted to areas where electric power is available and the future of Taber, from this point of view, looks very bright.

These extensions form only a small part of the Calgary Power's current expansion program for the next five years, when it is anticipated that over 50 million dollars will be spent by the Company.

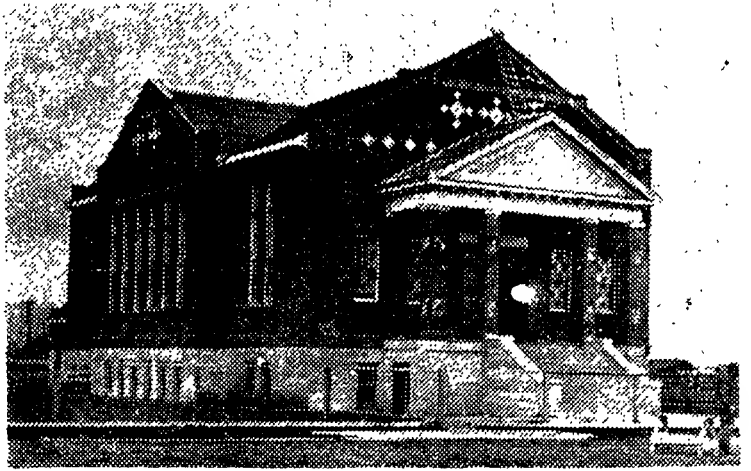
Calgary Power executives have great faith in Alberta's future and what with the additional irrigation facilities being provided in the southern part of the Province, together with the expanding oil and gas development, they feel that Alberta will make great steps forward in industrial and agricultural development during the next ten to twenty years.



Steam Threshing 1915

# CHURCH OF THE LATTER DAY SAINTS

The history of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints in Taber needs must be closely connected with the history of the Town. At the turn of the century, the first land seekers were a party of Latter Day Saints which included Alfred Anderson, John Elder, C. Southworth and J. F., Jed, Mort and Will Johnson, all of Raymond, who, during the winter, located homesteads near Woodpecker station, five miles west of the present town. In the early spring, nearly fifty locations were made. William N. Scott, Milton Scott and Walter Zoebel were among the first to pitch a tent in the Tabor district. Milton Scott had hauled a load of building material to his ranch two miles west of the present town site. A severe storm postponed the building operations, and the party did not return for several months.



Church of The Latter Day Saints

In the early part of May, 1903, William Hull and his three sons — Thomas, James and John, and Clark Sherwood headed a party of Latter Day Saint landseekers from Utah, who landed at Stirling on May 26th and prospected eastward as far as Medicine Hat. On June 9th, 1903, they decided to drive their stakes near the railroad Water Tank 77 where Taber now lies, and filed on claims which is now the Taber townsite. Mr. Hull and his sons were the first settlers, and erected the first dwelling, and they attracted around them the nucleus of the new town.

Shortly after the arrival of this party, the district was visited by Apostle John W. Taylor, President H. S. Allen of the Taylor Stake and Patriarchs Hinman and Wolfe of Cardston. At this particular season, the country looked very dry, and the report of these officials was not encouraging, although they advised the settlers to wait, because they thought that eventually more settlers would come.

At this time, Aaron Johnson, who had located at Woodpecker, decided to change his location and he joined the newcomers at Taber. These early settlers soon discovered that Taber was surrounded by numerous veins of coal. One of the first properties to be developed was that of William Probert, William and B. K. Bullock, lying about a mile west of Tabor. This was the beginning of our town, and to this hardy band of men and women belongs the honor of founding the town.

On Sunday, March 15, 1904, the Tabor branch of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

was organized with Samuel J. Wing as presiding elder and Milton Scott as clerk. President H. S. Allen and J. William Knight conducted the organization, which was held at the home of Thomas B. Hull. This was the first formal religious gathering in the place, and was largely attended. Those present listened attentively to the instruction given by their leaders. During this meeting, a Primary Association was organized with Mrs. Jessie Sherwood as president, and Mrs. Cora Wing and Mrs. Alice B. Hull as councillors.

The branch was visited on the 1st of May of the same year by several church leaders, and much spiritual encouragement was given to the followers of the faith.

The branch Sunday School was organized on May 8th, 1904, and the following were the first officers: Wm. F. Russell, superintendent; Samuel J. Layton and Walter Duncombe, first and second councillors; Cora Wing, secretary; and John Barton, Sarah L. Duncombe, J. S. Wing, Alice Scott and Jessie Sherwood as teachers. In July, 1904, R. A. VanOrman was chosen as assistant superintendent, and Josephine and Rose Francis were appointed to the Sunday School staff.

The Relief Society was organized on August 11th, 1904, with Minnie VanOrman as president, and other officers were: Mary E. Lindsay, Emma Francis, Margaret Evans and Minnie Layton.

Organization work continued with the forming of the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association (Y.M.M.I.A.) on September 18th, 1904. R. A. VanOrman was the first president, Thomas

G. Frazer and John Hull were councillors, Clarence Layton was chosen secretary; and Hans Hansen and William Haycock were missionaries.

The elevation of the branch to an organized ward was completed on October 2nd, 1904, at a meeting held at Hull's Hall (which was a large tent). Ransom A. VanOrman was set aside as Bishop, with Thomas B. Hull and Edwin R. Lindsay as councillors, and Milton L. Scott as clerk.

On the same date, the Y.L.M.I.A. was organized for the first time with Josephine Francis being chosen as president and Sarah Lindsay and M. Burbank as councillors. Rose Francis was the first secretary.

At these organization meetings Apostle John W. Taylor, President Knight, Brigham S. Young, J. T. Smellie, and Mrs. Jennie B. Knight were present. Two sessions of conference were held, and splendid advice and instruction was given to the new officers and all members of the church.

During these early days, the hardy pioneers had many hardships to overcome. However, their faith in the future was strong, and they had the courage to persevere. The Latter Day Saints first held their meetings in tents, and later in people's homes. The first church was built in 1905, one block east of Charlie Edwards' present residence, and the day of the dedication service was indeed a happy occasion for the Taber people.

Bishop VanOrman also supervised the building of a frame schoolhouse about the year 1905. The school was located on the same block as the church, one block east and one block north of the new High School.

On October 31st, 1906, the hearts of all the Latter Day Saints were saddened when fire completely destroyed the church building. The exact cause is unknown, although it is suspected that candles, thought to be out, may have ignited some papers. A Primary party had been held



FLOAT JULY 24, 1904

Names: Collett, Biglow, Engleson, Hull, Russell, Collett, Pierson.

earlier that evening. A new church was built immediately on the same foundation.

The first wedding in the Town was performed by Bishop R. A. VanOrman on December 13th, 1905, when Maggie Layton became the bride of Frank Stewart. Florence Marchasault and Will Renner were married in Lethbridge on the same day. In the evening, a double wedding dance was held in Hull's Hall and Peter Larsen played the violin and furnished the music.

Milton Scott was the first printer in Taber,

directed many excellent plays. These were held in the old frame school until the Opera House was built in 1907 by John Shirts.

This Opera House was also used as a roller skating rink. Plays were presented here by many travelling troupes, among them the Jean Russell company. Many old timers will remember the "Covered Wagon" which travelled about Southern Alberta presenting plays, and other varied types of entertainment.

Another important social meeting place in



R. A. VanOrman and Family

having started a business shortly after arriving in the town.

The water system has progressed considerably also, as is recounted in other pages of this book. John Barton relates that he well remembers dipping water from the river with a pail to water sixteen thirsty horses in the fall of 1904. In 1906, the town was scarcely a year and a half old, yet it had progressed with amazing rapidity. At this time, it contained forty residences and stores and nearly four hundred people, the majority of them being Latter Day Saints.

The L.D.S. Church has always been very concerned about the social activities of their young people. Therefore, the Mutuels were organized even before the Ward. Dramatics played an important part in the social life of all the settlers. Aaron Johnson, Chester Southworth and J. J. Walton were among those who

the early days was Lottie Stringham's Ice Cream Parlor. It was located about where the school dormitory is now and all the young people would gather there after a ball game or social event. Mrs. Stringham was a very sympathetic listener to the young people, and was highly esteemed by all.

More entertainment that the young people enjoyed were the ghost stories told by Joseph Edwards.

Many dances were held in Taber's first years too. The first ones were held in Hull's Hall, and later in the school and the Opera House and then in the Social Hall. The first orchestra was known as Johnny Hull's Orchestra. Walter Coombes played the organ, and Joe Hull played the trombone. A cornet and fiddle were the other pieces in this first orchestra. Later on, Peter

Larsen and his orchestra furnished the music for many occasions. Eph Lindsay played the accordion and Hannah Larsen the organ. Mr. Larsen, himself, played the violin.

The demon, "Fire", again saddened the community in December of 1924 when the church was totally destroyed. Bert Wood was made bishop in 1925 and he helped to get the new church started. Bishop Thomas W. Harris was his successor, who held the office for ten years. It was while he was bishop that the old frame schoolhouse was moved to a new location. An addition was built, and it was remodelled to form the present Social Hall. In 1936, Harold

Wood was sustained as Bishop of the Taber ward.

By 1948, the Ward had progressed so rapidly, that it was decided that it should be divided into two wards. The population at this time was about 1100 members. At this time, Douglas Miller was made bishop of the first ward, and E. N. Francis bishop of the second ward. The population today in the first ward is 684 and in the second ward 415.

Through the years each of the organizations has been led by several capable officers. In the Relief Society, there have been a succession of wonderful leaders. Minnie VanOrman was president for twenty years, followed by Ida Wood in 1924 who was president until 1932. She wa



The Women's Relief Society of the L.D.S. Church at Taber, when they celebrated the centennial of the society, March 17th, 1942. The above picture showing, left to right, four Past Presidents and the present President: Mrs. L. Stringham, Mrs. Ida Wood, Mrs. Zina Meacham, Mrs. Ethel Hall and Mrs. Georgina VanOrman.



followed by Leah Stringham, Ethel Hall, Zina Meacham, Georgia VanOrman, Louisa Hansen, Maud Harris and Viola Francis. In 1948, when the wards were divided, Mrs. Emma Harris became president of the 2nd Ward and Mrs. Nettie Hill in the First Ward. Mrs. Hill was succeeded by Mrs. Helma Barton in 1950.

The Y.W.M.I.A. has been headed by Josephine Russell, Liza Hansen, Eva Wood, Sarah Duncombe, Clara Bullock, Mable Francis, Eva Francis Emma Harris, Rita Wood. When the ward was divided, Mrs. Bernice Bodie took over in the First Ward and Mrs. Lenora Murphy in the Second Ward. Melva Harker became president of the First Ward Y.W.M.I.A. in 1950.

The first Y.M.M.I.A. was presided over by Sam Bennett. He was succeeded by Phileamon Collett, Walter Duncombe, Hazen Walton, Art Lee, Tom Frazer, Frank Johnson. When the wards were divided, Percy Poulsen took over in the first ward and later Van Orman and Keith Harris. Ray Evanson is the present superintendent of the Y.M.M.I.A. in the first ward. In the 2nd ward Wilford VanOrman was the first president, succeeded by Ray Evanson, and then Evan Hall who is the present superintendent.

The primary is the children's organization, and, therefore, plays a very important part in the church. The first president was Mrs. C. Sherwood. She was succeeded by Sarah Duncombe, Mrs. Jim Hobbs and Mrs. Robert Iby. In 1911, Mrs. Hannah Russell was sustained as president, and she held that position for eleven

years. Mrs. Russell was followed by Sally Edwards Elizabeth Pierson, Ida Wood, Thursa Russell, Ann Miller, Phyllis Harding, and Mary Nielson. When the ward was divided, Mrs. Ela Meyer became president of the new First Ward and Mrs. Ida Wood was the first president of the Second Ward.

In conclusion, it may be of interest to note the progress of the town, which was far beyond the expectations of the first settlers. William Probert, father of Mrs. Stella Smith, and a member of the first town site committee, encouraged the homesteaders to stay on their land. He said to them, "I promise you that if you will prove up to your homesteads, some day they will be worth a thousand dollars."

Another interesting statement was made by Theodore Brandley of the first Taylor stake presidency. He told the first settlers in Taber not to become discouraged because some day Taber would be as large as Stirling, which was then a thriving town, having been founded in 1899.

The Church of Jesus Christ welfare canning project at Taber, under the direction of the Bishopric and the Relief Society, was started in 1937. It had a small beginning with a coal stove and a hand capper. The peas were shelled, and corn husked and cut off the cob by hand. The building used was a small building near the L. D. S. Church (formerly the Bishop's office.)

Each year, a few improvements were made.



The results of co-operative effort are shown in the above photo of thirteen farm outfits preparing the soil on one of the L.D.S. church welfare farms at Taber. Labor and machinery were voluntarily given, and in a single day, 60 acres of farm were prepared for seeding the welfare

crop. The farm shown above is situated at the west edge of town, and has been used for some years by the church for welfare work. A few years ago, through efforts of the church membership, irrigation was brought to this formerly dry piece of town property.

Another building was purchased to be used with the first building, as a cannery. A steam boiler was installed in the basement of the church, and the steam was piped to the other buildings to run two retorts, holding ninety-six cans each. Gas hot plates for blanching the vegetables were also installed, as well as an automatic electric capping machine. The vegetables canned were peas, corn, string beans, table beets, tomatoes, and tomato juice. The cans processed each day at this time were from four to eight hundred cans. From ten to twenty women assisted with the work.

In 1946, the Church built a new cannery, and modern canning equipment was installed. There is one small retort, and two large ones, holding one hundred and seventy six cans each. There is also one large, double steam vat for cooking the corn, and preparing the brine for other vegetables; two vats for blanching the vegetables, a steam box where the cans run on a track to the capping machine and a large vat to place the cans to cool from the retorts. There is a cleaner machine for cleaning the peas as well as a corn husker and cutter. As many as 2,400 cans have been processed in a single day in this new cannery.

The women of the church have community days to can for their own personal needs. One of their projects has been the canning of pork and beans.

Mr. James Potts has been the engineer of the project, since its commencement, and Bishop Harold Wood the supervisor of the canning operations. Ivan Harris was appointed, assistant to the supervisor during the canning season of 1951.

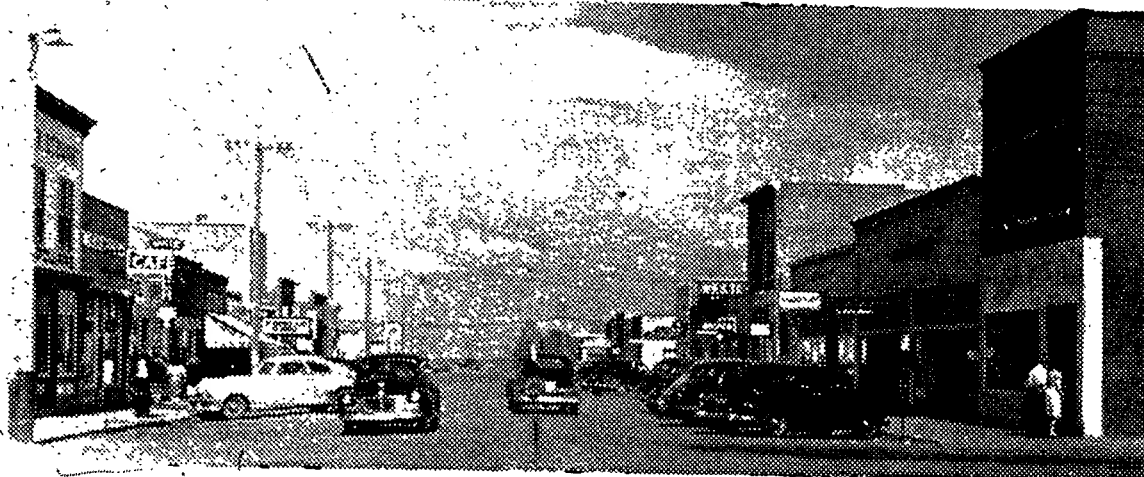
Scouting in the L.D.S. Church in Taber was organized in the year, 1912, under the direction of Charlie Edwards, the first scoutmaster.

Since that time many well known men of the L.D.S. Church have devoted their time and talents to building scouting in the church in the Taber district. In 1947 and 1948, Mr. Earl Ellingson was the leader of a mounted troop, one of the very few ever organized in Canada. Also during the year, 1947, eight King Scouts were invested and given their Merit Badges.

These were the first and only King Scouts in the First Taber Troop. This group had the honor of being included in a group of L.D.S. scouts who attended the L.D.S. Church Centennial held at Salt Lake City that year. This group was further honored by the Utah Stake Traffic Control by being assigned to traffic control when the celebration was in progress. On their return home, two of the King Scouts qualified to become Rover Scouts, the highest attainment that can be reached in Scouting.

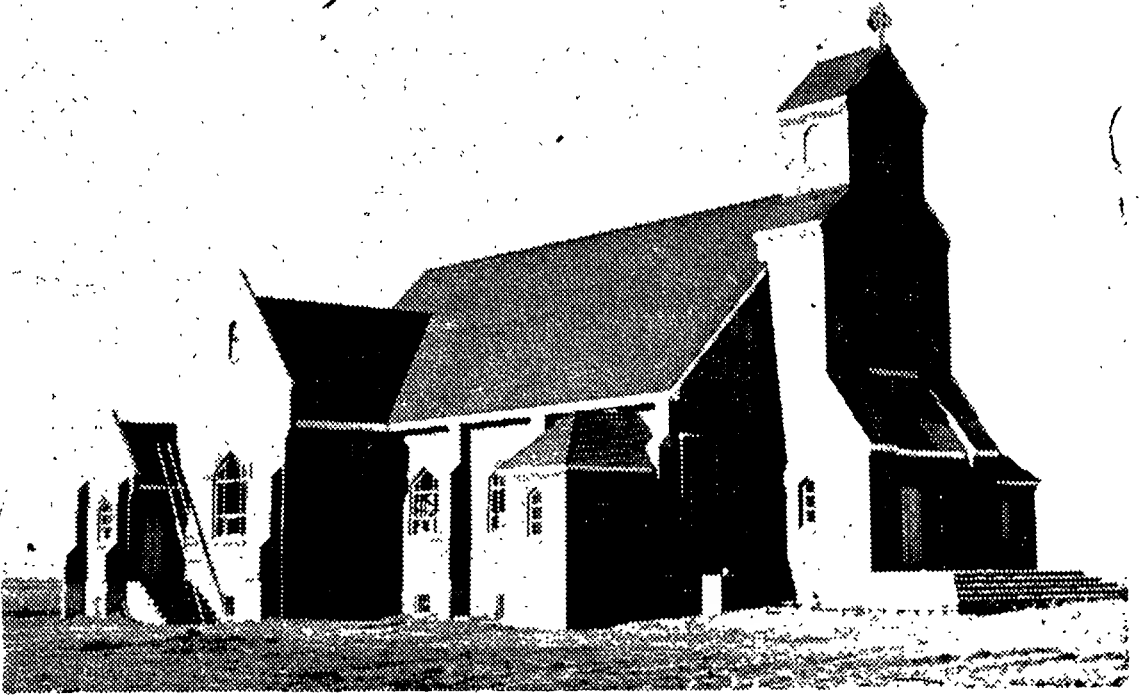
From 1920 to 1944, Mr. Vernon Bigelow, a scouter who is highly honored for his work in Alberta and at Dominion Headquarters at Ottawa, did an outstanding work for scouting in Taber. Before leaving for the United States in 1944, Mr. Bigelow compiled a picture gallery of outstanding events that he had gathered over the years. This gallery of pictures holds a prominent place in the scout room in the church. Mr. Bigelow will long be remembered for his outstanding contribution to scouting in the Taber district.

At the present time, there is an active troop in both the first and second wards of the L.D.S. Church. These lads are ever alert to scouting, and live up to their motto "BE PREPARED!"



Taber Headed Towards City Status, 1948

## St. Augustine's Roman Catholic Church



Around the year 1906 the foundation families of the parish began to arrive. Familiar names appear in the record books — Garrick, Bonette, Chiste, Malo, Hosey, Lengyel, Kerkhoff, McMenamin, Revak, Brooks, McLelland and Head. Newcomers from Europe mingled with the settlers from Nova Scotia and soon a large Catholic population was centred in the coal town of Taber. But there was no accommodation for church services. Mass was said at the hall in Purple Springs, and then at McLellan's farm. In Taber, the upper floor of what was lately the honey factory was used, while the church was being built. It is an interesting study to compare the registers of the parish when it was founded in 1910 with the present-day books, and note how few of the original families have any representation left here.

Parish organization soon took form with the necessity of financing the new building. Under the energetic leadership of Miss A. Pender, a school teacher, the ladies were organized, and

the Alter Society put on many successful affairs in aid of the building fund. Pat Hosey's blacksmith shop was new at the time, and it was the scene of the most successful parish effort — a turkey supper and bazaar which netted \$1000.00. Now, new families were coming and the parish leadership devolved upon Pat Hosey, Frank Kerkhoff, Don Malo, A. J. Sernett, Frank Reilly and Tom Pyne. Frank and William Jordan came from Scotland, and the latter became pit boss at the Canada West Mine. One of his boys, Anthony, took his high school course at the Jesuit College in Edmonton, and he went on from there to become a priest and a member of the Oblate Fathers. He is now the Bishop of Prince Rupert.

The first sister to come from the parish was May Head, who joined the Sisters of St. Louis, and is now stationed at St. Teresa's College, Medicine Hat, being known in religion as Sister Anne Francis. Frances Malo entered the convent of the Sisters of Martha, and she is now called

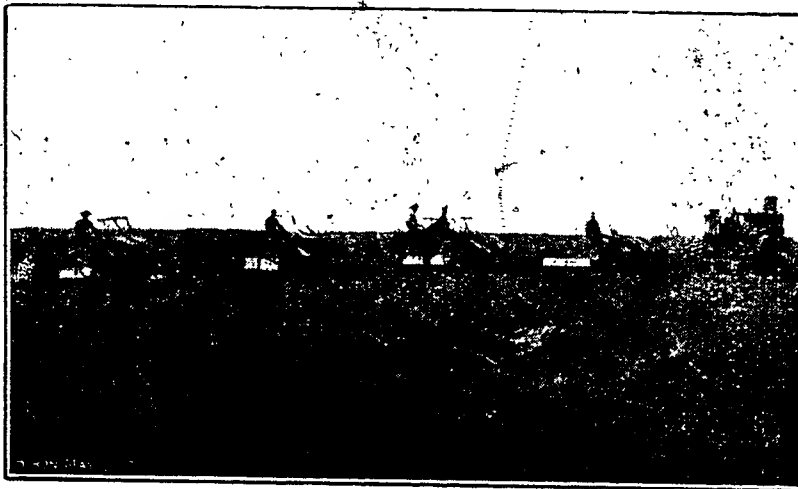
Sister Adele. The second priest from the parish also came from the Malo family — Father Louis Malo being ordained on June 15th, 1946, by Bishop Carroll of Calgary. The first Mass said by Father Malo was one of the outstanding events in the history of the parish. The old wooden church was too small for the huge crowd, and the Mass was said at an outside altar with the congregation filling the grounds. These first vocations to the religious life have been followed by more recent ones. The Misses Beth and Mary Zadnik, Barbara Hoffart of Taber, and Patricia Nadorozny of Vauxhall, have become Sisters; Beth Zadnik joining the White Sisters of our Lady of Africa and the other three the Sisters of Providence.

About the time Father Meyers was organizing the building of the church, the land north of the river was opened up for homesteading. Then came the settlers so quickly and so numerous that the early residents still remember the scene along the C.P.R. right of way — tents thrown up in a hurry and household effects scattered up and down the tracks as the men hurried off to stake their homesteads. Father Meyers and his successors said Mass at Barney, Lost Lake, Wheat Centre, Sweet Valley, Brunetta and Kinnondale. When Retlaw came into existence in 1913, Mass was said at the public hall until the building of St. Anne's Church in 1916 and 1917. Mr. Turcotte, father of the present mayor of Lethbridge, was the builder; and Father Bidault was in charge. Albert AcAndrews, A. P. Hemple, Carons, Martins and Alberts, also Cyr

and many others were prominent in the life of the new parish. The first vocation to the religious life came from the Caron family, who gave their son to the Oblate Fathers. Father Caron is now at Whitehorse in the Yukon. The majority of the congregation in those days came from south and west of Retlaw town, but there are but few parishioners left there now, the bulk of the people coming from the Vauxhall and New West districts. The old timers of the St. Anne's parish still remember with great affection, the zealous devotion shown by their pastors, Fathers Bidault and McCoy in the days when travelling was bad and distance often had to be covered by team and wagon or sleigh.

With the death of Father Van Tighem, the work of the Oblates in Taber was done. Bishop McNally of Calgary placed the parish under the care of Father McCoy, then stationed at Bow Island. His steadfast devotion to duty is well remembered by the parishioners who could count on his two visits each month, regardless of conditions. He served the parish until 1931.

Father F. Kientz became parish priest in 1931 and remained until 1933. These were difficult years for the parish as the depression was in control. Father Neville Anderson succeeded in the fall of 1933 and his short stay was productive of great good in Taber and Retlaw. In the short space of nine months, he crowded years of spiritual benefits. It was under his administration that the Catholic Women's League held the Diocesan Convention in Taber. Father Arthur Anderson came in September of



Cutting grain by tractor-draw binders

1934 and spent the next six years with the Taber-Retlaw parish, endearing himself to all by his ever cheerful and friendly manner. Upon his promotion to Bellevue in September of 1940, Father Lyons came from Calgary to take over the parish.

The war years saw many of the beet workers becoming established as farmers. When the Canada West mine ceased operations in 1927, employment ceased for a great number of the parishioners and away they went. But they were soon replaced by a new wave of immigration as the beet workers began to arrive from Europe, and many of the names now prominent in the parish, began to be registered. At the first opportunity they bought farms. With the establishment in Taber of their families, and an

influx of Catholics from surrounding towns and from the neighboring province of Saskatchewan, the facilities of the old church soon proved inadequate. A new site was purchased north of the tracks and a Committee was set up to prepare for the building of a new church. Joseph Orzes, Frank Kerkhoff, Paul Fettig, Don Malo, Joseph Chomany and Frank Bonette comprised the organizing committee. They were succeeded by a Building Committee made up of Joseph Chomany, Frank Wentz, Pat Malo, Silvio Bonette, Omer Malo, "Mike" Bartram and Wallace McDonald. The Church was completed and blessed by Bishop Carroll on May 27th, 1950. The parishioners are proud of their beautiful brick church, a worthy conclusion to the long history of the Catholic Church in the Taber district.

## Taber United Church



The origin of the Presbyterian Church is to some extent indefinite, for the reason that most of those directly interested in its inception, have long since moved elsewhere, or have finished their course.

No records are available prior to 1906, and even these are unfortunately meagre. Mr. James Glover, whose recollections of much of what took place previous to 1906, have made it possible to record events and persons that might otherwise have passed into obscurity.

The Church, at Lethbridge, realizing an opportunity for service soon got in touch, and before long began to conduct meetings under the direction of Dr. Hurd, then superintendent of Presbyterian missions. The only place available for such was the men's bunk house at the mine, and here the first service was held. The only available light was from oil lamps and it is said that it was quite common to see Mr. Bullock holding a lamp so that James Shearer could see to read the scripture lesson.

The miners, men of all nationalities and creeds, were many of them indifferent to these efforts, and it is told by James Glover, who was present, that at times some of the men would be seated on their bunks, smoking and playing cards, their attention divided between the game and the sermon, while others more devout would kneel on the floor, earnest in worship.

The effect was, however, that those more

seriously minded, realized the need of definite church affiliation, especially as about this time some of the wives and families were arriving in the community, with its refining influence amidst the crudeness of a mining camp. It took shape and readily was accepted. Accordingly, steps were taken by those interested to organize the work of building and largely through the efforts of Mr. Hamilton, then manager of the mine, and the cooperation of many whose names might well be mentioned if remembered, a small building was soon under construction, situated just west of the C.P.R. water tank on the north side of the track. Just how the building was financed is not definitely known, but it is believed that it was accomplished largely by voluntary contribution of cash and labor from the miners of all faiths, and generously assisted by businessmen of the village. It is remembered that in November of 1905, the foundation was laid and the frame erected, and soon after the building was completed. A reading desk for the minister, chairs and a small cottage organ were secured and the church was ready for official opening.

It is told that the opening ceremony was a notable event and was in the form of a basket social. Lunch baskets brought by the all too few ladies were auctioned and substantial revenues accrued from the generous bids of the men, rivals for the favor of sharing the basket's supper contents with the fair donors.

Dr. Lang had just returned, with his bride from their honeymoon and had made what proved a rash boast that no one would get his wife's basket. This statement cost him handsomely as the bidding was fast and furious before Mrs. Lang's basket was secured by him. We are credibly informed that there were very few white shirts at the gathering, coal mining and white shirts being inconsistent, and maybe the absence of starch made possible the great good fellowship experienced. Music was provided by a couple of young men with guitars, Walter Coombs and Norman Rowell, and a fine program of music, song and story was enjoyed.

Unfortunately, the lapse of time makes impossible the recording of the names of all those who were present or who had assisted in the building of the Church, which became known as Knox Presbyterian. Some, however, can be recalled and all are worthy of mention.

Mr. W. A. Hamilton, who with Mrs. Hamilton were amongst the earliest, have already been

mentioned. Jack and Bill Kerr, James Redfern, Jack Chéyne, John Larsen, George Hook, Walter Coombs, Norman Rowell, Bill Henderson, Alex. Primrose Dave Williams, W. W. Douglas, H. A. Beard, Geo. C. Millar, Frank Davis, J. Groves, Jas. Whyte and Westlake Brothers were those who assisted. Jas. Glover and his brother, Tom, and Peter Larson built the brick chimney, said to be the first brick chimney built in Taber. James Redfern, the boss carpenter at the mine, superintended the building.

The first organist is said to have been Belle Primrose, and David Williams was the first choir leader.

A few of these pioneers are with us still, James Glover probably the oldest in point of residence. Eva Glover, now Mrs. John Hill, was the first pupil in the early Sunday School. Mr. Geo. C. Millar, too, is one of the earliest still with us, and the late Mr. K. L. Jardine was the early church's first librarian. Mr. Jas Shearer, a student supply, was the first preacher in charge of Knox Church, and was at times assisted by Mr. Bullock, a lay preacher, both already mentioned as holding services in the miner's bunk house. Another lay preacher, a rancher from near Lethbridge, conducted some of the early meetings in the bunk house, but we cannot find record of his name.

The year 1906 brought many new families to Taber, these becoming members of the congregation and the wives and families of some of the men already here came about this time. Among others, Mrs. W. W. Douglas, Mrs. Geo. C. Millar, Mr. and Mrs. Bellwood, Mr. and Mrs. R. P. Wallace, Mrs. Primrose, Mrs. Beard, Mr. and Mrs. Alex. Campbell Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Mewhinney, Mrs. McCallum, Mrs. Ritchie, Mr. H. P. Munro, who was for many years, clerk of the session and Mrs. Munro coming a year later. Mr. A. Rowley, who came about July of this year, was only here a few weeks when a delayed shot in the mine caused the terrible accident from which he suffered for years. Mr. Rowley died in January, 1950, and his widow still resides in Taber.

We cannot recall the names of many single ladies, possibly for the reason that in these days of so few women, they soon ceased to be single. Miss Dowser and Miss McLeod, two teachers in the Taber School, were early connected with the church, as were Florence McCallum, later Mrs. Ed. Wildman, Annie Ritchie, later Mrs. R. G. M. Todd.

In these days of beginnings possibly the greatest influence of our church's life had its inception. We find it recorded that on August 6th, 1906, at 8 p.m. a meeting was held in Knox Church, Taber, for the purpose of considering the advisability of forming a Ladies Aid. The meeting was opened with prayer by Mrs. Hamilton and after discussion it was moved by Mrs. J. R. Munro, sec. by Mrs Douglas, that a ladies aid be organized, to be known as The Ladies Aid of Knox Church, Taber, and whose object shall be the helping of the church in all its departments and in any way possible.

How well that stated purpose has been pursued and how earnestly striven towards for over thirty years is worthy of record by an abler pen than mine. For throughout those thirty years the ladies aid have been the pulsing heart of our church supplying its very life, and making possible its continued existence. Indeed, we find recorded at a later date, a motion where the ladies aid were asked to continue to look after the finances of the church. Today, the same organization in new hands, play their part as loyally as ever, and those who have taken up the torch, laid down by tired hands, are with us still, carrying on the same splendid work.

The officers appointed at this first meeting were: President, Mrs. J. R. Munro, wife of the minister; First Vice President, Mrs. W. W. Douglas; Second Vice President, Mrs. Wm. Henderson; Secretary, Mrs. W. S. Hamilton; Treasurer, Mrs Dr. Lang.

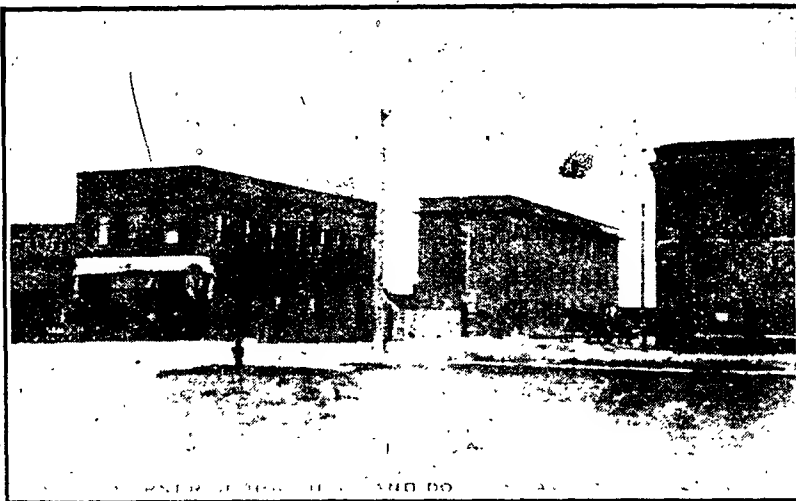
Membership fees were set at 10c each meeting. Needlework was started immediately, and the meeting of August 31st records show two pinafores sold to Mrs. Hamilton for 90c, and one shirt to Mr. Hamilton for 75c. Mrs. Glover made little dresses at home, and these became in great demand amongst the Mormon women to whom the English style with puffed sleeves were a novelty. Mrs. Glover passed away in 1949, and her record of years of continuous faithful service is indeed a delight and an inspiration to all. Truly —

"Is not one man, or class of men  
That makes a nation great,  
But the good women in our homes,  
The children at the gate."

Meanwhile, it should be recorded, the building was regularly used for services once a month by the English Church until their own church was built on its present site. Rev. David Jones, a young English minister, first came to conduct these services and later became resident vicar, remaining, much loved by all, until sickness compelled him to retire, soon after which he died.

In July, 1906, Rev. J. R. Munro, was inducted to the ministry of Knox Church, and remained as its minister till the summer of 1911, at which time he retired from the ministry. It gives us pleasure to here pay tribute to the earnest ministry of one who possessed all the qualities of a Christian minister and a thorough gentleman.

The first meeting of session recorded, was



Joe How's, Palace Hotel and Royal Bank (Now Dr Muth's Office) 1911

held at the residence of Mr. W. A. M. Bellwood on November 12th, 1907. There were present: Rev. J. R. Munro, moderator; and Messrs. Bellwood, Alex Primrose, E. P. Millar and R. P. Wallace. The moderator opened the meeting with scripture reading and prayer. Business recorded was election of R. P. Wallace as clerk of session. E. P. Millar was elected representative elder to attend next meeting of Presbytery at Pincher Creek. It was arranged that session meet every three months, on the evening of the second Wednesday before Communion Sunday at 8:30 p.m. It was also decided that communion services be held four times each year on the first Sundays of January, April, July and October, and that preparatory service be held on the Wednesday evening immediately preceding, and that individual cups and unfermented wine be used.

It was arranged that the first anniversary service be held on Sunday, December 15th, 1907, and that Rev. Mr. Morrow of Medicine Hat be asked to preach. The first communion service was held on Sunday, January 5th, 1908, and records show that the first member received on that occasion by profession of faith, was Miss Annie Ritchie.

The foregoing record is given at length, in order that the names known, of those participating, might be preserved. It is to be regretted that a more complete list is not available. Such, after a period of forty-five years would be of historic interest.

From this time until 1911, the church's work continued, under Mr. Munro's ministry, with inevitable changes taking place, some leaving and others coming. Three members of the session were amongst the first to move elsewhere — Dr Lang to Vancouver, R. P. Wallace to assume the duties of clerk of the court at Lethbridge and E. P. Millar also left Taber at this time.

An election of elders was held to replace these, when H. P. Munro, a member of the congregation, and John Paterson, a former elder of the United Free Church of Glasgow, Scotland, were appointed, and took office at the Communion Service on October 2nd, 1910. Vivid memories crowd upon one, of this little early church, its minister, its people, its services and entertainments. Far from accustomed city crowds there was a warmth and sincerity not to be found in the larger congregations. One got to know all the people and their characteristics, and friend-

ships were made that were to last until Journey's End.

That sterling rugged old Scot, John Paterson, who had been for many years an elder in his native land and in this church till the time of his death and who, even after his hearing had failed, would come to the services and at a communion his presence was a benediction. Memory brings back his words to us when on an occasion he gave the right hand of fellowship and said, "May the Lord bless you and make you a good man".

To have been the friend of H. P. Munro, was a privilege that years cannot lessen. His faithfulness to the congregation as elder and clerk of session, until his passing, is too well known to many of you to require comment.

These have gone to "the reward of just men made perfect".

We recall, too, some of the entertainments of these early days. Notable was the occasion when there was a debate on the dangerous subject, which people had produced the greater men, the Irish or the Scotch. Partisanship was keen and the debate warm. We remember that Dr. Lang had advanced the argument that there was no people had so good an educational system as the Scotch, and in rebuttal Sam Ervine said he knew of no people that needed such more.

In the fall of the year 1910, a movement was started to organize a Methodist congregation and as a number of the members and adherents of Knox Church were of that persuasion, it was natural that their sympathies were with the movement. On its consummation a very definite loss was sustained by Knox. Happily the later union brought back many old friends to join with us again in forming the united congregation, in 1921.

"The little church on the corner" having now become too small for the largely increased congregation, we find that at the annual meeting of date January 26th, 1910, it was moved by E. R. Wildman, seconded by S. J. Bligh, that the board of managers and officers of the Ladies Aid be a committee to discuss plans for a new building, to seat 350 and to report to a general meeting on February 8th, 1910. At the February meeting it was decided to erect a new church building, at a cost not to exceed \$3,000.00 though at a subsequent meeting in April, the approxi-



mate cost was raised to \$5,000.00 and proceeding with the building was sanctioned.

Many new names appear at this time, and we find active in the church, Mr. and Mrs. Beck, Mr. and Mrs. Blue, Mr. and Mrs. Tainter, Mr. and Mrs. Coulter, Mr. and Mrs. Powell, J. H. Prowse, H. H. McLeay, Geo. E. Ewing, J. M. Holmes, and others, all of whom were enthusiastic for the new building. An appeal was made to the congregation for funds and a canvass was made. Remembering the accomplishment of the building of the first little church where labor was as important as cash, many who could not contribute funds, offered work, and presently the new building was begun.

Mr. W. W. Douglas, had donated three lots on which to erect the church. E. R. Wildman, W. J. Mewhinney, and David Williams, were to take charge of the work, many of the men assisting as they were qualified.

Unfortunately, 1910 proved a very barren year for the farmer. Crops were poor, owing to extreme drought and money became very scarce, yet enthusiasm overcame many obstacles and before long the basement was excavated, the foundation in, and ready for the frame. Operations were held up for some time and not until the spring of 1911 were they resumed.

From then on it was a mighty effort, but eventually the walls were up and the roof put on, and with relays of earnest workers doing the tasks they were able to, the frame part was completed and ready for the brick. Harry Hogarth was in charge of this work and assisted by a number of bricklayers, it was not long before the walls were completed and the chimneys built.

Meantime, the inside work was going on and willing workers assisted as they could. The building of King Solomon's temple was a humble effort compared with this and there was no lack of Solomons to advise, though at times a bit more help and less advice would have suited those in charge better. The Ladies Aid, under the leadership of that splendid old lady, Mrs. McCallum, performed wonders of assistance and encouragement and finally, early in 1912, the seats were put in and the church building was an accomplished fact.

A number of outstanding donations were made by individuals. Mrs. McCallum presented the three large armchairs for the platform, Mr. J. H. Robinson and Mr. Nelson Blue the church

bell, which if anyone be sufficiently curious to climb up, will be found to bear a plate inscribed "Donated by J. H. Robinson and Nelson Blue, to Knox Church, Taber, in the year 1912." Mr. and Mrs. A. Campbell gave the gold velour curtains for the front of the platform. There may have been other donations, but memory does not serve to recall them at this late date.

One, however, that will live long with us is the large east window of the church made entirely by David Williams, and donated by him as his contribution to the building. "King David", as he was affectionately known by his intimates, was at one time leader of the choir, and many will have happy memories of both he and Mrs. Williams.

Another donation which came later was the gift by Mrs. McCallum of a silver baptismal font, in memory of her son, George, who was drowned at Henderson Lake, Lethbridge, and it is interesting to record that Trevor Jones, first born of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Jones, was the first child baptised from it. Unfortunately, there is no complete record of donations available, the few here mentioned being recorded from memory, hence many may be omitted.

Rev. J. R. Munro resigned during the summer of 1911, and Rev. Chas. Whiting was appointed a temporary supply and continued till the end of June 1912, when a call was issued by the congregation to Rev. F. W. Mahaffy, B.A. resulting in his acceptance.

In Nov. 1912, only two elders remained and the congregation were asked to elect four others to take their place. Consequently there were elected and ordained, Rev. L. E. Lynd, then principal of the Taber School, John T. Willard, W. J. Mewhinney, and J. H. Robinson.

Some time after his arrival, Rv. F.W. Mahaffy, finding housing accommodation poor, decided to erect a residence in which to live. This he did, and occupied it during his stay in Taber, and when he removed, sold it to Mr. Luckhardt, and it eventually became the property of Knox Church and has since been used as a manse. Mr. Mahaffy continued as minister of the congregation until June of 1915, at which time he left Taber, much to the regret of its people. He was a man of scholarly accomplishment, of fine address, and left behind many friends who regretted his going.

On October 18, 1915, Rev. A. H. Denoon, acting moderator of Lethbridge Presbytery, met with

the congregation to consider arrangements for a call and this was issued to Rev. A. C. Bryan. Messrs. J. T. Willard and Gordon Dickson were appointed a committee to appear before the Presbytery at Macleod in November, to support the same. Rev. Mr. Bryan accepted the call and came to the Taber congregation at the first of the year 1916.

Recognition of the services of Mrs. E. B. Tainter as choir leader was recorded at this time and she was invited to continue to hold this position, for which she was so well qualified.

Early in 1915, many of the men of the community had joined the forces for service overseas, and Knox Church gave liberally of her best. The names of those of the congregation who went to war are here appended. Five of them gave their lives. The list of names is copied from the Memorial Scroll which hangs on the church wall and is as follows:

Wm. Brand, Tom Clark, Alex Forgie, Chas. Horner, Tom Love, Robt. Love, Alex Patterson, Thomas Sneddon, Wm. Bartram, Kenneth Findlay, Robert Sproule, Wm. Stratton, Dr. G. W. Leech, Robert Paterson, Samuel Ervine, James Ervine, Robert Ervine, James Douglas, John McLeod, James Whyte, Earl McIlrath, George Russell, John Rintoul, Frank Lamont, John Thompson, Jack Campbell, Don McGillvray, Alex McFayden, Wm. Cook, Bernard Johnston, Sidney Bligh, Wm. Anderson, Douglas Nichol, Andrew Stratton, John Serrie, James Ostler, George Barclay, Dick Moore, Charles Kiel, Joseph McKie, Clark Allen, Leo Russell, Arthur Bishop, 43 in all.

The ministry of Rev. A. C. Bryan covered a period of great national anxiety when in every community the terrible effect of war was felt. Many ministers volunteered for service overseas and in December of 1917 we find record of an appeal made to the congregation for contributions to the Chaplain Fund, at which time the sum of \$132.00 was donated. But few ministers could go, however, and those who remained found much work in comforting the sorrowing, helping with Red Cross and other efforts and Mr. and Mrs. Bryan faithfully did their part. A man of quiet pleasing personality, an earnest worker, giving ever of his best, Mr. Bryan ably assisted by Mrs. Bryan both will long be remembered for their energy and kindness.

The effort to keep small congregations alive was very great and in many cases was found impossible. Union, which had for some time been

talked of began to be looked upon as a solution in part of this problem.

The Taber Methodist and Presbyterian Churches had been making advances toward each other for some time and the minutes of a congregational meeting of Knox Church of date May 29, 1921, record that it was moved by R. H. Anderson, seconded by Mrs. J. H. Robinson, that this congregation approves of, and endorses the action of the managing boards of the two churches, in so far as they have gone, in connection with the objective of uniting the two congregations, which motion was carried unanimously. At a joint meeting of the two boards of the church at the residence of Mr. W. A. Blenner-Hasset, there were present Messrs. Vickery, Robinson, Dunn, Cooke, Hussey, Anderson, Fenton and Watkins.

Messrs. Sundal and Fenton were appointed secretaries, Mr. B. L. Cooke treasurer, Messrs. Todd and Hussey, auditors. Resolved that separate books be kept for building account, and current expenses. Messrs. Sundal and Watkins were appointed a committee to list and value the Methodist Parsonage and furniture, with a view of selling the same, and that the date of union be set as at July 1, 1921. Rev. Mr. Bryan having left to take charge of the congregation at Ogden, Calgary, the pulpit was vacant, and Messrs. Blenner-Hasset, Vickery and Robinson, were appointed a committee on supply, until a pastor was selected.

These extracts from the minutes of the meeting at which union was definitely consummated are given in detail so that they may form a record of what took place and how the union came about and to record the names of the participants.

Hence it will be seen that the now united congregations were to use the Presbyterian church and manse buildings and Mr. B. L. Cooke was authorized to have proper forms executed in connection with these properties to be henceforth known the properties of United Church of Taber.

A resolution passed at a congregational meeting of August 21st had added to the session the names of Rev. H. A. Cook, Mr. S. A. Fenton and Mr. F. Watkins who were former members of the Methodist Church. And so the fusion of these two congregations took place this year of grace, nineteen hundred and twenty one, and how happy the outcome, those who have been

---

## TABER — YESTERDAY AND TODAY

---

with the United Church at Taber since then, well know.

True, the union did not solve all of the church's problems, but these have been largely of a financial nature. Nothing inharmonious has at any time appeared amongst our people and now, after thirty-one years of fusion, no trace is left of separateness. Many have since passed beyond our ken, who played a worthy part during their time with us and this halting record is all too incomplete in its recollections of those who labored through the years.

Many persons and incidents that might have been omitted, not because they were not found worthy, but because of the limitations of recollection.

During these thirty odd years of church union the following ministers have given leadership: 1921 — Rev. A. J. Mitchell; 1927 — Rev. G. H. Villette; 1929 — Rev. W. H. Irwin; 1934 — Rev. A. L. Elliott; 1941 — Rev. J. A. Collett; 1943 — Rev. R. B. Tillman; 1945 — Rev. J. Sorochan; 1950 — Rev. C. A. Warren.

During the leadership of Rev. Sorochan, a new Hammond electric organ was installed in the church, also a natural gas heating system. The church was thoroughly renovated, making it the pride of the congregation.

Present leaders of organizations include: Session: R. H. Anderson, clerk; and Messrs. E. J. Hussey, S. Fenton, G. MacKillican. H. G. Ridley, C. A. Kullberg, and J. R. Fletcher. Board

of Stewards: Wm. Maier, chairman; E. J. Hussey, secretary-treasurer; Fred Pritchard, Pete Fisher, George Vandervoort, Eric Wilkins, Don Munro, Russell Shonert, George Alexander, Stuart Boyle, Harvey Vickery and Stanley Bartram.

The Taber W.A.: Mrs. C. A. Kullberg, president; Mrs. D. Laurie, secretary and Mrs. A. E. Craddock, treasurer.

The Wadena W.A.: Mrs. Chas. Jespersen, president; and Mrs. O. Jespersen, secretary-treasurer.

Reliance W.A.: Mrs. Peter Fisher, president; Mrs. Peter Verselyes, secretary; and Mrs. Mable Cannon, treasurer.

The Junior W.A.: Mrs. A. Baker, president; Mrs. A. Kerkhoff, secretary-treasurer.

The W.M.S.: Mrs. G. MacKillican, president; Mrs. A. E. Craddock, sec.-treas.

Evening Auxiliary: Mrs. R. Collett, president; Mrs. H. Court, secretary and Mrs. W. Towle, treasurer.

Other active organizations connected with the church are the C.G.I.T., the Explorers, Trail Rangers and Tyros, the Young People's Union with Arnold Hudson as leader, the Baby and Mission Bands, the A.O.T.S. Men's Club. The choir is directed by Harvey Vickery and the organist is Mrs. G. Vandervoort. Mr. Wm. Maier, president; and Mrs. J. W. Danielson as secretary-treasurer of the choir, complete the list of the various church officers.



An afternoon at Mr. J. W. Johnsons' farm. The Community Club entertained a group of Taber ladies, 1915.

## The Church at St. Theodore, Taber

### *A Glance Through the Records*

"We, Cyprian, by Divine Permission, Bishop of Calgary, do hereby, under the provisions of the Canon on Parochial Organization, erect and form into a Parish to be known as the Church of England Parish of St. Theodore, Taber, the district hereinafter defined, that is to say: the town of Taber. In testimony whereof, we have affixed our Episcopal Seal to this Deed, which has been executed in duplicate this first day of April in the year of our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seven, and of our consecration the Twentieth Cyprian Calgary."



Anglican Church

Thus reads the deed, now tattered and yellow, with the seal of the Right Reverend Cyprian Pinkham, D.D., first Bishop of Calgary. It brought to birth yet another parish of Christians of the Anglican persuasion in the homesteading days of the Canadian West. At the request of the first Vicar, the Reverend David Jones, and in memory of his own parish church in Wales, St. Theodore, the seventh Archbishop of Canterbury was chosen as the patron saint of the new church.

On Easter Sunday of 1907 a dozen names made up the list of communicants: J. Truswell, W. B. Grubb, Thornton Bullock, R. H. Martin, J. Glaysher, E. Ven Ville, F. R. Davies, A. P. Veale, F. W. Powell, Edward T. Westlake, R. S. Standerwick, and S. J. Hill. At the first vestry meeting John Truswell was appointed Vicar's Warden, and F. R. Davies elected first People's Warden.

Construction was begun on the church in June of 1907 and by August work was completed and on the eighteenth of that month the Church of St. Theodore was dedicated by Bishop Pinkham. The furniture of the church, the altar hangings and Communion vessels, the organ and the books, all were gifts of individual

parishioners or were made possible by the work of women's and children's organizations in the early years. The church stood on bald prairie and it was Thomas Carr who carried and planted the trees in the church yard. There was at that time a fund of the Women's Auxiliary in Toronto for the purpose of providing church bells in prairie churches, and with the help of both this fund and Colonel J. Carruthers Little a bell was hung in the belfry. In May, 1928, the long unused Church of St. Margaret of Scotland was moved from Burdett and attached to St. Theodore's for use as a parish hall.

Among the names of church-wardens and vestrymen are some which today, forty-five years after the building of the church, are familiar even to new-comers to Taber; names which appear in all records of baptisms and confirmations, of marriages and funerals, names which are part of the fabric of Taber as well as of St. Theodore's Church. There is Truswell, and Bullock, Walker, Hamman, Bekl, Gidman, Leck and Carr.

There have been thirteen incumbents of the parish, and to list them may revive memories long pushed aside: — Rev. D. Jones, 1907 - 1910;

Rev. A. H. Ransome, 1910 - 1911; Rev. A. W. Sale, 1912 - 1913; Rev. R. Brandt, 1914 - 1917; Rev. F. Taylor, 1917 - 1919; Rev. F. R. B. Leacroft, 1919 - 1925; Rev. A. S. Partington, 1925 - 1930; Rev. W. E. Goodman, 1930 - 1934; Rev. P. W. O. Hill, 1935 - 1942; Rev. J. J. Evans, 1942 - 1945; Rev. A. Thompson, 1945 - 1949; Rev. E. H. Lewis, 1949 - 1951; Rev. R. J. Crocker, 1951 -.

The surrounding district had to be ministered to, and attempts were made then, as now, to provide Anglicans in Vauxhall, Grassy Lake, Bow Island and Foremost with regular services and the ministrations of the church. There is a tale told of Bishop Pinkham who was accompanied by the Rev. A. S. Partington to confirm the candidates at St. Luke's Church, Grassy Lake. There was no highway then, and the condition of the roads in bitter winter weather was bad. Mr. Partington, not wishing to tax unduly His Lordship's health, suggested that the confirmation be postponed. Bishop Pinkham, successor of St. Paul who suffered all things for Christ, looked at Mr. Partington, and said calmly, "Forty years have I been Bishop of this diocese and never have roads stopped me yet!" The confirmation was held.

In the same year that the church was built the women of the parish were organized into the Guild of St. Theodore under Mrs. Depew as president. It is interesting to note that the secretary-treasurer in 1909, Mrs. Minnie Walker, was president of the Guild's successor, the Women's Auxiliary (Afternoon Branch) in 1951. The first Vicar, the Rev. David Jones, had died in 1910, and nine years later on the Feast of St. Matthew at the request of the Rev. F. Taylor, Mrs. Truswell had the honour of unveiling the brass altar cross, a gift of the Junior Guild, as a memorial to the first incumbent. And in the same year the Guild was able to pay off the church mortgage, which task they had undertaken in 1910. It was in 1934 that the Guild decided to become a branch of the Women's Auxiliary to the Church of England in Canada, an organization which numbers its members from coast to coast and which is pledged to help further the work of the Kingdom in parish churches throughout the country and to emphasize the missionary work of the Church.

As members of the Guild of St. Theodore's Church, and of the Women's Auxiliary, the women of the parish have worked for their Church. Through their diverse activities they have been a strong source of financial support. Their strawberry socials, parish suppers, pantry

and plant sales, teas, whist drives and voluntary Christian giving have served the two-fold purpose of arousing interest and raising money. The fruit-cake, with its deceptive weight to be guessed which caused merriment and puzzling doubt at the 1951 bazaar, found its beginnings at the 1919 sale of work.

Nor has the religious education of the children of the parish been neglected. In addition to the annual classes for confirmation candidates held by the Vicar, the Sunday School has been in operation since 1910. In that year Mr. Bullock was superintendent, and Mrs. Davies and Miss Powell were teachers to the fifteen boys and nineteen girls who were enrolled.

Scouts and Cubs were organized in 1928 with Mr. A. Kirkham as Scoutmaster. The Scout Troop's colours, which hang today in the chancel, were presented by Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Leland and were blessed by the Bishop in 1929. The Junior Auxiliary has been active for many years, and these girls have made their own contribution to the life of the Church. Recently they hemmed and embroidered purificators for use at Holy Communion.

The Altar Guild, a small number of women devoted to caring for the vessels for Holy Communion, cleaning the brass Altar Cross, candlesticks and alms-bason, changing the hangings for the various seasons of the Church Year, and laundering the linens, has served faithfully. This year, 1952, new white brocaded hangings made by the Altar Guild and donated by the Women's Auxiliary (Evening Branch) and the Junior Auxiliary will be used for the first time on that great festival of the Church, Easter.

Four men, two boys, and nine women made up the first choir to sing in the chancel in 1910, and ever since there has been a loyal group to lead the congregation in the music of the services. The present organ was recently installed and dedicated to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Wm. E. Walker, Joseph Dobbs, Joseph David Dobbs, Wilhelmina Green, Elizabeth Carr, J. J. Powell, John Truswell, Ruth Vayro, Frank Thomas, Clara Thomas, Norman Scott, Thomas Carr, John Cooper, Hannah Williams, Zoe Palfrey, Wm. Ledgerwood, Harvey Ledgerwood, Garry Ledgerwood, Nellie Bell, Margaret Westlake, John Sowerby, Jack Sowerby, James Brown, Mary Beverly, Edward Oliver, Joseph Oliver, Minnie Vickers, William Vickers, Thomas McMahon, Elizabeth McMahon, David Jones, Frank Taylor, Edgar Goodman, Donald Wager, E. K. James, Albert Tolton, Silvia

Gidman, Thanacelos Babies, and our boys who paid the Supreme Sacrifice in the two World Wars.

It was the day of the dedication of the church in 1907 that the first child, Douglas Angus Depew, was baptized. And in December of 1909, the Lord Bishop of Calgary confirmed five adults and one boy. James John Evans and Annie Higgins was the first couple to be joined together in Holy Matrimony in October 1907. And in the same month two-year old Elizabeth Sheldon died of measles and was the first person to be buried from St. Theodore's Church.

But these are names from past records. The work of the Church continues from one generation to another, and new names are added to

the long list of Christian workers. This is 1952 and St. Theodore's celebrates its forty-fifth anniversary. The present Vicar's Warden is Mr. Arthur Avery and the People's Warden is Mr. Frank Crummer. At the organ is Mrs. Hugh Reid. The Women's Auxilliary meets in two sections, the Afternoon Branch whose president is Mrs. Frank Crummer and secretary Mrs. Ernest Constable, and the Evening Branch with Mrs. S. Young as president and Mrs. Walter Stone as secretary. The Altar Guild has as its president Mrs. Constable who also leads the Junior Auxilliary. For the past few years Mrs. Arthur Avery has been superintendent of the Sunday School. These are those who provide leadership in the various organizations, but it is only with the devotion and help of all the members of the church that the work of St. Theodore's goes on, to the greater glory of God.



C.P.R. yards, looking west; Canada West mine in the distance and C.P.R. Station looking east.

## The Evangelical Free Church

As a denomination the Evangelical Free Church is as yet not widely known in Canada. However, as a fundamental, evangelical and nonsectarian fellowship, it is chosen by many who prefer its democratic form of government.

Originating in the Scandinavian countries, after breaking away from the state church which sought to deprive them of religious liberty, the individual churches became known as "Free" churches, each a self-governing unit with evangelism as its aim.

Like the Pilgrim Fathers of earlier days, these freedom-loving people, too, landed in America where they were free to worship as they pleased. Soon their churches sprang up across the United States from east to west and finally up into Canada, with Enchant, Alberta, establishing its first Free Church in 1917. From this little country point, the work spread out to different centres in the western provinces.

At Taber, the Evangelical Free Church work began in 1944 under the leadership of Mr. Emil

Axene, who, with the assistance of various young people, began Daily Vacation Bible Schools among the children of the town. Increased interest resulted in the erection of a bungalow-type of building in the Extreme south end of town, known as the Taber Gospel Mission. Here, children's meetings, as well as periodic worship services, continued for a time, but when this building proved inadequate as a church, a site was secured two blocks south of the C.P.R. depot; and a modest church building erected on the corner. Rev. L. W. Fosmark from, Enchant, became the first pastor.

The Church was duly opened with dedication services on March 16th, 1947, and although, having operated for the past five years as a mission, it has seen good progress in the number of regular attendants and interested adherents. Now in 1952, plans are underway to organize the group into a self-supporting church, enlarge and improve its structure and make it a building of which Taber can justly be proud.

---

## Our Fraternal Organizations and Service Clubs

### ROSALON CHAPTER, ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR.

This Chapter was instituted on the evening of January 4th, 1928. The Worthy Grand Patron of Grand Chapter, Bro. Hughes, of Calgary, officiated. He was assisted by officers and members of Maple Leaf Chapter Number 7, Lethbridge.

The following officers of Rosalon Chapter were installed: Worthy Matron, Sr. Linnie Allen; Worthy Patron, Bro. Ernest Rose; Associate Matron, Sr. Agnes Cannon; Secretary, Sr. Sarah Rose; Treasurer, Sr. Louise Jones; Conductress, Sr. Dorothy Clark; Associate Conductress, Sr. Ruth Vayro; Adah, Sr. Alix Thomas; Ruth, Sr. Elizabeth Shaw; Esther, Sr. Marion Anderson; Martha, Sr. Agnes Cooke; Electa, Sr. Ethel

Cochlan; Warder, Sr. Louise Paterson; Sentinel, Bro. J. Howell Jones; Chaplain, Sr. M. Campbell; Marshal, Sr. Margaret Perdue; organist, Sr. Elizabeth Prowse.

In addition to these officers, the following members made a total of twenty-six charter members. Mrs. Jennie Shaw, Miss Irene Allen, Mrs. Mary Rose, Mrs. Sarah Redel, Mrs. Minnie Villett, Mrs. Margaret Wright, Percy E. Rose, T. M. Allen and J. Harper Prowse.

The Chapter now has a total membership of sixty-eight; and of these, seven are charter members, who are still active in the service of the Order of the Eastern Star.

## Loyal Order of Moose

About the turn of the century the Loyal Order of Moose was formed as a fraternal order. Some time later with James J. Davis at the helm, Mooseheart was founded. Mooseheart was built from an idea he had, about looking after dependent children of deceased Moose brothers.

At Mooseheart, Illinois, 35 miles west of Chicago, is located the Child City of Opportunity. This institution is the home maintained for the care and protection of children of deceased members and for children of Moose widowers. Mooseheart represents an investment approximating \$34,000,000.

Mooseheart affords facilities for the care and education of more than 1,500 children. Spread over its broad acres are miles of paved streets lined with more than 200 fireproof concrete and steel buildings housing stores, shops, schools and homes. Living in the small comfortable homes under the care and influence of capable Moose mothers and instructors, these boys and girls are given a high school education and taught one or more of the many useful trades, preparing them to take their places in the world as good and useful citizens.

A new House of God has recently been dedicated at Mooseheart where children of every denomination worship. Each child is brought up to follow its own religion and we believe this is the only church of its kind in the world. We are sure if Mr. Davis was still alive he would be very proud of this piece of work carried out by his brothers and sisters, the Loyal Order of Moose and Women of the Moose of the different countries. Two years ago, when this House of God was completed, Brothers Arnold Odland and John Williams of Taber Lodge 927 and their wives, two members of our local Chapter 726, made a tour of Mooseheart, our Child City, and visited this wonderful House of God and brought back to us a glowing report of the work done there.

But Mooseheart is not the only "Baby" of the Moose Organizations. There is also a beautiful home for our elderly members called Moosehaven, located at Jacksonville, Florida, and from all reports, is a haven indeed for our older Brothers and Sisters who have become dependent in the late years of their lives. We the Moose people hope this work will be kept up for all time.

The Taber Lodge No. 927, Loyal Order of Moose was chartered April 6th, 1921, with 37 members. The original officers were as follows: Dictator, J. D. Wilson; Past dictator, Dr. J. A. Tolmie; Vice dictator, J. D. McCartee; Secretary, E. C. Rose; Treasurer, Reg. Laird; Prelate, A. Sandy McRoberts; Sergeant at Arms, Robert Huntley.

The Lodge flourished for quite a time with the above and others at the helm. During the lean years of the thirties the membership fell off to around 20 in number and as times grew better new blood was called upon and the lodge started an uphill climb to its present status of about 270 members. With the changing years the officers titles were changed to the present: Governor (Dictator), Alex Molnar; Past Governor

(Past Dictator), Robert Williams; Jr. Governor (Vice Dictator), Albert Johnson; Prelate, Weste Jensen; Sergeant at Arms, Ken Dawson; Secretary, J. Snell; Treasurer, C. Rombough.

Two years later on May 4th, 1923, the Women of the Moose, Taber Chapter No. 726, was chartered with 25 members listed, which has grown steadily till it has reached 107 members at present. The early records of the Chapter cannot be traced at this time and it is thought they were destroyed by fire. However, some of the charter members were Mrs. Oliver (Senior Regent), Mrs. Head, Mrs. Barkley, Mrs. Hesketh, Mrs. Parker, Mrs. McRoberts, Mrs. Patterson and Mrs. Serrie.

The following are the order of Senior Regents as they served in the chair: Mrs. Oliver, as the first Senior Regent, followed by Mrs. Hesketh, Mrs. Head, Mrs. G. Hart, Mrs. T. C. Williams, Mrs. McRoberts, Mrs. Yuill, Mrs. Tucker, Mrs. Woods, Mrs. Marsh, Mrs. Serrie, Mrs. Parker, Mrs. Meacham, Mrs. Parry and Mrs. W. Williams, and now 1952 the following officers are in the chairs: Senior Regent, Mrs. Ann Turin; Jr. Past Regent, Velma Williams; Jr. Regent, Mrs. Julia EH; Chaplain, Mrs. Alice Williams; Recorder, Mrs. Celia Noble; Treasurer, Mrs. E. Black.

During Mrs. Hesketh's term of office she had the privilege of attending a convention at Mooseheart, for this our Chapter is very proud. Mrs. Hesketh brought back glowing reports of the work being done at Mooseheart. Mrs. Hesketh took the Recording work after leaving the Senior Regents chair and for 18 years carried on in that capacity untiringly and only for reasons of health did pass the work on to her successors. The title of "Star Recorder" was conferred upon her for many years of faithful service. Being the first Star Recorder in Alberta, our Chapter feels justly proud of Sister Hesketh for which our local Chapter gave her a Life Membership.

Another highlight in our Chapter's work was the conferring of Senior Regents "Pin of Achievement" on Mrs. Kate Parry, presented on behalf of Mooseheart by Mrs. Jean Rennie, Deputy Grand Regent for the Province of Alberta. This was another first for Taber Chapter and also the Province.

Recently one of our Charter members in the person of Brother Tommy Parkinson was called to his last resting place leaving only four active charter members left, namely Bros.



H. Parker, A. Bodie, Wm. Paterson Sr., and Wm. Paterson Jr.

Our Fraternity embraces a membership in

Lodges and Chapters of over 2,250,000 members. And with Mooseheart and Mooschaven grown to their present size our fraternity perpetuates the slogan "Protection from the Cradle to the Grave".

---

## The Masonic Lodge

Doric Lodge No. 31 A.F. & A.M. was organized and consecrated in the Town of Taber in 1908. It is one of the older institutions in Taber and has remained active throughout its entire life of 44 years.

During the early years Lodge meetings were held in various halls in town. On January 8th,

1909, the Lodge lost all its records and effects in the fire which destroyed several large buildings on Railway street. It was not until 1927 that the Lodge was able to meet in its own home. In that year the Miner's Hall was purchased and dedicated to Masonry on May 10th, 1927. Since that time the Masonic Hall has been enlarged and improved.

---

## Taber Kiwanis Club

The Kiwanis Club of Taber was organized on March 5th, 1947, with the following officers and board of directors elected:

President: Omer Malo.

Vice-President: Dr. R. L. Lynn

Secretary: F. M. Pritchard

Directors: Oscar A. White, F. Pamenter, J. E. Malo, R. B. Evanson, W. A. R. Braybrook, R. H. Swann and L. Johnson.

The Kiwanis Club has accomplished a great deal of community work since its organization. Each year the club sponsors Bantam, Midget and Juvenile Hockey Teams, with over one hundred young boys taking part. The Club also sponsors a Junior Beef Club, with twenty members, and presents trophies to the winners in the various classes. An open air rink is operated by the club, and it has also set up playground equipment in the vicinity of the local swimming pool. Other projects are a baseball school and three-team league with thirty-seven boys registered in 1951. Career nights have been organized by this Club for the Vocational Guidance of the high school students. Guest speakers have been invited to speak to the students on such subjects as architecture, law, nursing and

engineering professions, to name a few.

The group has also rendered financial assistance to the local Air Cadet movement, and is instrumental in raising large sums of money annually in a drive for the Cancer Society. They are assisted in this worthy endeavour by the Kinniburgh Women's Institute, who canvas in the rural areas. The Club has also recently completed the erection of a board fence around the skating area of the new Civic Centre.

Weekly luncheon meetings are held by the Kiwanis Club, and an annual Ladies' Night is held, as well as a picnic for members' families during the summer.

---

### OF INTEREST

Mr. H. J. "Casey" Berlin, a director of the Alberta Motor Association for four years, has won distinction by being a winner for three consecutive years in the membership drive for the A.M.A. Among other prizes awarded, Mr. Berlin was the recipient of a beautiful sterling silver tea service, which holds a place of honor in the Berlin home. The A.M.A. has approximately three hundred and eighty members in Taber and district. The A.M.A. sponsors our School Patrol.

## Taber Chamber of Commerce

The early history of the Taber Board of Trade parallels that of the town. It was during the rapid growth and expansion of the town at the time of its incorporation that the Board of Trade was organized. Early pioneers such as Jack Truswell, R. A. VanOrman, Pete Hammer, J. B. Jett, L. T. Westlake, E. T. Westlake, E. N. Harding, R. H. Anderson, Alex. Campbell, and George Millar, with others, saw the need of studying and acting upon problems concerning the town and district.

It is difficult to ascertain the officers of the first board, but it is known that the first annual banquet was held during the year 1910. At this time, R. H. Anderson was president, George W. Leech, 1st vice-president, E. B. Tainter, 2nd vice-president, Percy Leach, secretary-treasurer with George Millar, honorary secretary, and J. B. Jett, George Ewing, W. W. Douglas, R. A. VanOrman, A. L. Mitchell, and Pete Hammer, members of the executive. It is men such as these, together with Ted Sundal, Andy Cannon, J. E. Evanson, Percy Rose, B. L. Cooke, Byard Smith, Bert Wood, F. P. Boyce, James Black, R. C. Paterson, with many others, who organized and maintained the functions of the Taber Board of Trade. They realized that community service was an essential part of good citizenship.

As a matter of interest, we note that Percy L. Leach was a paid secretary receiving the sum of \$300.00 per year.

Activities of the Taber Board of Trade have kept pace with the town's development. They

have played an active role in the industrial strides of the town and community; the irrigation development of 1920; the beginning of the sugar beet industry of 1925; the canning industry of 1934; the oil development of 1937; and the extension of irrigation during recent years, promoting sound advancement for both business and public welfare.

In retrospect, we find that although the Taber Board of Trade has been in existence through the years, it has experienced periods of inactivity. It was following such a period that the need of re-organization became apparent. Therefore, on January 23rd, 1950, at the Royal Hotel, Taber, the old Board was re-organized to become known as the "Taber Chamber of Commerce." Officers were: J. Marr Bodie, president; P. T. (Pat) Malo, first vice-president; Tom Strain, 2nd vice-president; and S. W. Neilson, secretary-treasurer. Since this time P. T. Malo and Tom Strain have headed the Chamber of Commerce. At the present time, the 1952 executive consists of the following: W. I. Neilson, president; R. F. Gibb, 1st vice-president; S. A. Odland, 2nd vice-president; and H. M. Nicol, secretary-treasurer.

The relatively new Taber Chamber of Commerce has been, and is active in community betterment. They feel that the future of Taber is greater than her past, and that men of faith, vision and courage will always be needed to guide the affairs of the organization which is so vitally needed in any community.

## Taber Branch---Canadian Red Cross Society

This branch was organized at the beginning of the War, and was active during the war years. At the annual 1952 meeting of the Taber Red Cross Society, Omer Malo was re-elected president, with Mrs. Carl Cook as vice-president, and the secretary-treasurer is Mrs. Omer Malo. Chairman of the finance committee is Mr. George Vandervoort, while Mrs. Guido Bonette heads the committee on women's work. The swimming and water safety committee is headed by R. B. Evanson, the disaster committee by John Landysheff, Paul Johnson is the publicity chairman, and the social convenor is Mrs. H. J. Harrison.

The blood donor service is in the charge of the Taber Women's Institute.

A report on the 1951 drive for funds showed \$3,566.79 collected from Taber, Barnwell, Cranford, Purple Springs and districts, and the Taber organization was highly commended for having exceeded its quota of \$2,500.00 by over \$1,000.00. The blood donor section reported that 225 pints of blood were given at the clinic in Taber last year.

The Red Cross sewing circle which meets once a week is actively engaged in making up garments to be sent to General Headquarters.

## Taber Lions Club

The Taber Lions Club has been a potent force in promoting the welfare of the community. Since its organization in 1935, the Club has raised and spent substantial sums on various community projects including the Civic Centre, Swimming Pool, Kiddies' Wading Pool Sight Conservation, Canadian National Institute for the Blind, Red Cross Society, Public Library, Hospital furnishings, and educational prizes.

The latest and the biggest project undertaken by the Lions Club is the Civic Centre building. In 1949, a fund was started to be utilized in erecting a covered skating rink. Before sufficient money was collected to complete a rink, an opportunity became available to purchase two drill halls from a P.O.W. camp. These buildings were purchased by the Lions Club, and turned over to the Town of Taber

together with the sum of \$10,000.00 in cash. The buildings have been moved to Taber, and made into one large building 114 feet by 217 feet. Much remains to be done on the Civic Centre building, but it is in use now as an indoor rink. Up to the present time, the Lions have raised \$27,000.00 for this project, and are continuing the drive for funds to bring it to completion.

This club also made a substantial contribution of time and money towards the completion of the Taber Memorial Swimming Pool.

Sight conservation is regarded by the Lions as one of their primary duties to the community. Arrangements are made, by club funds if necessary, to supply the needy with spectacles and eye operations. This project is not widely advertised, as many of the recipients of this help are living in the community; but everyone



Taber's Swimming Pool, 1948

knows where to go for help should the need arise.

In addition to their own local project, the Lions conduct the annual canvass for the Canadian National Institute for the Blind. Over the years, they have collected many thousands of dollars for this organization.

For ten years, the Lions have maintained and operated a kiddies' park, equipped with wading pool, swings and sand pit. This park provides the kiddies with a safe place to play.

From time to time, donations have been made to various local organizations. In addition,

the Lions give two money prizes annually to high school students. The Lions also instituted the street numbering system in the town last year.

The chief source of the Lions' income is the annual Mirthquake. This event has been conducted for nineteen successive years and has developed into a three-day affair, returning a net annual profit of \$2,500.00.

The variety and extent of the projects undertaken by the Lions Club in promoting the welfare of the community shows that it has been instrumental in making Taber a better place in which to live.

## The History of Our Schools

Taber's first school was built in 1904 on a site north and east of where our present schools now stand. It was a two-roomed building, and was used during the fall and winter for church and school. In 1907, a school was built at the Canada West Mine, which was later moved to the location on the south side of Taber, where it was used as a school until 1950. In 1950, this school having served its purpose for so

many years, was torn down. The children on the south side of Taber now attend a fine new school — the first three rooms of which have been in operation since 1949, and an additional three rooms added in 1951. Six elementary grades are housed in this "South Side" school with Miss Marjorie Vaselenak, vice-principal of the Taber Elementary School, in charge.

In 1910-11, the large brick school house was

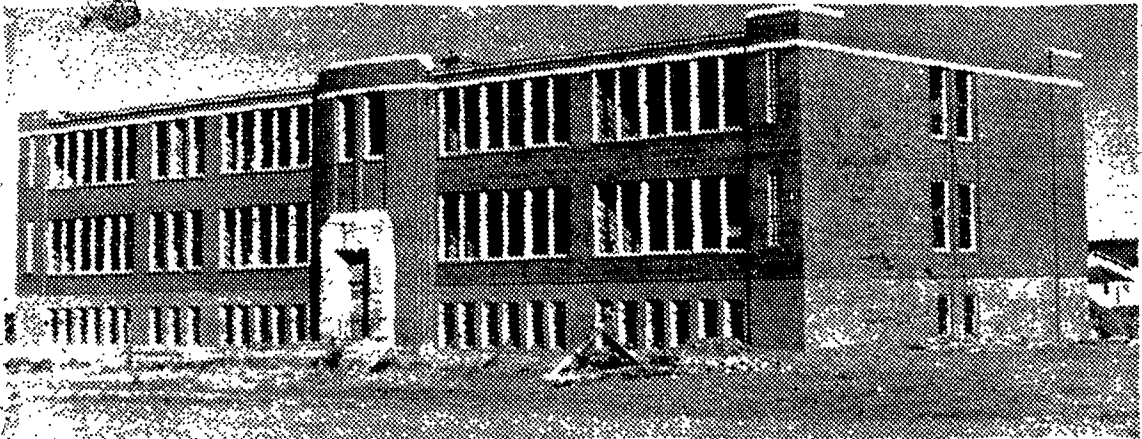


Central School

built. This is known as Central School, and housed the elementary and high school grades until 1950 when the new High School was completed. When the Taber School Division came into existence, and children from the surrounding school districts came to school in the buses, the Division moved several small schools in from the country to take care of all the classes. The School Dormitory was also built which has six classrooms on the lower floor, and the upper floor is composed of bright, modern apartments which serves as living quarters for several teachers. The Central school houses the elementary grades with fifteen rooms and fifteen teachers, and is under the principalship of Mr. Wm. Hendrickson. The high school classes are held in the twenty rooms of the new High School. Shop courses, Home Economics courses as well as Commercial courses are offered in addition to

the regular academic courses. Mr. H. B. Myers is the high school principal, and Mr. S. A. Earl is the present superintendent of the Taber School Division.

There are two active Home and School Associations, which hold regular monthly meetings, and the meetings are highlighted by varied and entertaining programmes. The Divisional library, with Mrs. Fay Meikle, in charge, is a school library which would compare favorably with any in the Province. The bright, modern office of the Taber School Division, with Mr. Harry Hart as secretary-treasurer, is a renovated R.C.A.F. building, which building also houses the office of the Rural Municipality of Eureka. The several teacherages, located on the school property, complete the overall picture of Taber's Schools.



Taber's New High School

## The Public Library

The present library was originally started by the Taber Home and School Association, which Association collected several hundred volumes and had a library upstairs in the Fire Hall. In 1947, the Taber Library Association was formed, and in 1950 the library was moved to the more favorable location of the ground floor of the Fire Hall. The aggressive chairman of the Library Board, Mr. Wesley G. Smith, is assisted by volunteer Board members: Mrs. O. A. White, Mrs. J. Marr Bodie, Mrs. Fred Hallworth and Mrs. Lola Flood. Mr. A. Cannon is the secretary-treasurer.

The late Mrs. Ethel Hall, as librarian, gave

valuable service to the library movement, and her daughter, Mrs. Carl McCartee, as her successor, is now rendering a valuable service to the library patrons.

Volunteer workers have recently been engaged in the cataloging of the books in the library, and there is now available a good selection of adult and junior fiction, a mystery section, a biography section and a large number of non-fiction books. Each year, more and more carefully selected books are added to the collection which now contains well over three thousand volumes.

## The Home and School Association

Taber's first Parent-Teacher Association was formed in 1929. Mr. H. Tesky, school principal, met with a group in the home of Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Tallman, to discuss P.T.A. and to plan for organization.

Mrs. Mabel Porter was president of the Taber Women's Institute at this time, and at an Institute meeting held on October 4th, 1929, it was moved by Mrs. T. Russell that the W. I. hold a social evening for the teachers of the high school, the school board, parents of high school pupils and Institute members and husbands. The motion was seconded by Mrs. R. H. Anderson and carried.

The social evening was arranged to be held on November 6th, in Central School auditorium with a view of starting a Parent-Teachers Association, and at this meeting the P.T.A. was organized. Dr. A. Hamman acted as chairman, and the following officers were elected: President, Mrs. Harold Wood; Secretary-treasurer, Mr. L. G. Tallman; Program Convenor, Rev. Wm. Irwin. At the following meeting, Dr. Kerby, first provincial president, and also first National President was guest speaker. The name P.T.A. was later changed to Home and School Association in all provinces except British Columbia, and in 1951, the National Body adopted the name Home and School and Parent-Teacher Federation.

The president of the Central Home and School Association is at present Mrs. Wilson Wright, Mrs. Wm. Murphy is the immediate past president, while the vice-president is Mr. F. Hallworth, and the second vice-president is Mr. K. Maruyama. The secretary is Mr. H. B. Myers and the treasurer is Mrs. Thelma Stevens. The convenors of various committees are: Membership, Mrs. Thursa Russell; Program, Mrs. H. J. Muth; Publicity, Mrs. A. H. Avery; Community Influences, Mrs. Wm. Hendrickson; and Hospitality, Mrs. John Fleming.

In 1948, the South side of Taber decided they could serve their community best by forming their own Home and School Association. Since that time, this group has been an active and progressive body. They deserve much credit for their work in getting a fine, new six-roomed

school on the South Side, and they take great pride in the grounds and equipment. Their influence is felt in the entire South Side community.

The first president of this group was Earl Ellingson and the present officers are Immediate past-president, Mrs. D. W. Kinniburgh; president, Mrs. K. Haworth; vice-president, Lloyd Reid and secretary-treasurer is Mrs. J. Ell. The committee convenors are as follows: Membership Mrs. Gordon Mulner; Program, Mrs. J. Jorstad; Social, Mrs. C. Rombough; Grounds and Equipment, William Westhara, and hospitality, Mrs. S. Price.

The aims of H.S.A. are:

1. To promote the welfare of children and youth.
2. To raise the standard of home life.
3. To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth.
4. To enable parents and teachers to cooperate in the training of the child.
5. To understand and to aid the schools, and to interpret them to the public.
6. To obtain the best for each child according to his physical, social, and spiritual needs.
7. To foster high ideals of true citizenship and patriotism.

Throughout the past twenty-three years, H.S.A. has worked to fulfill these aims in our community. Keen interest has always been shown in school work, by arranging "open house" days at school, sponsoring school fairs and displays, assisting with track meets, and music festivals. Through the generosity of many local organizations and business men, prizes were offered for proficiency and achievement. Much groundwork was done toward setting up scholarships, but to date this has not been accomplished, chiefly due to lack of finances. Health projects have been sponsored each year, and at times, clinics arranged. A hot lunch program has been a main objective, and it is expected will prove an actuality.

An active Community Influences Committee keeps abreast of recreational and cultural needs.

---

**TABER — YESTERDAY AND TODAY**

---

The Town Library was sponsored by H.S.A., and Vacation Reading Clubs are carried on in summer holidays. A carol festival of Christmas music was sponsored, and through the years many fine art exhibits have been shown to the public, and also exhibits of local handicraft and art. H.S.A. has never neglected spiritual influences, and the ministers of Taber have worked in closest co-operation with this organization at all times. Home and School has been a potent

factor in moulding public opinion and arousing interest through good speakers, panel discussions, educational films, and discussion groups.

New citizens in this community have always found a warm welcome in Home and School meetings. As a co-operative, non-partisan, non-sectarian, and non-commercial group, we have worked through the years to produce Canadian citizens who will be capable of perpetuating the best in our national life.



**COOK HOCKEY TEAM — 1910**

The Taber Chefs put Taber on the sports map in Canada, and brought fame to the "old home town" back in the pre-war days. This mighty hockey team which starred the famous Cook brothers, were the Southern Alberta champions in 1910 and 1911. In 1912, Taber business men

offered this team \$800.00 if they would enter the Allan Cup competition in the Dominion championship. In this interesting old picture of players are seen: A. G. Cook, A. B. Cook, L. T. Cook, J. E. Cook, A. "Doc" Barbour, G. Baird, H. W. Cook, A. Glendenning.

## The St. John Ambulance Association

"The St. John Ambulance Association, a Foundation of the Grand Priory of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, came into existence in 1877. Certificates of proficiency in First Aid, after attendance at lectures and examinations were granted in 1877, and the first manual of instruction was published in 1878. So keenly was the work taken up especially by miners, policemen, and railwaymen, that in 1879 the Association introduced a system of re-examination for further awards.

"No greater tribute to the work of the St. John Ambulance Association could have been paid than the granting of the Charter to the Order of St. John in 1888 by Her Majesty Queen Victoria, primarily on account of the work done by the Association.

"The experience of the early years showed that many of those who had received the Association's Certificates and Medallions exhibited a keen desire to utilize their knowledge in the service of the public. Many accordingly banded themselves together in units at various places and provided ambulance stations at places where large crowds assembled. Thus originated the St. John Ambulance Brigade, which was formally established by the Order in 1887 and, in 1948, was raised to the status of a Foundation of the Order."

The above introduction was taken from "First Aid to the Injured" which is the authorized textbook of the St. John Ambulance Association. Now a glimpse into the history of the local Brigade.

The inception of activities in First Aid and Home Nursing in Taber is traceable to the time when the late Captain Robert Faulds, came to Taber as a fire chief in 1913, and in 1917, he was made chief of police in addition to his fire chief duties.

"Cappy" Faulds was a capable and enthusiastic instructor in First Aid, and carried on the work of the Order of St. John remarkably well. The late Elijah Williams was also keenly interested in First Aid work. Mr. Williams completed his course, and obtained his instructor's certificate in 1935. From that time until 1947, he organized classes and instructed in First Aid in the town and district. At times he was assisted

by Mrs. John Hill, who is also the holder of an instructor's certificate, in First Aid. After the last war, valuable assistance was rendered by W. Van Duncombe who served in the Medical Corps during the war, and is now a holder of an instructor's certificate. Among other local residents to obtain their instructor's certificates in recent years were Authur Avery, and John V. Barton, who is now resident in the Peace River district.

The classes instructed in First Aid by both the late "Cappy" Faulds and the late Elijah Williams were examined by Dr. A. Hamman, who gave much encouragement and support to the work of the Order of St. John. Then Dr. John Muth carried on in a similar capacity for some time.

It is, indeed a pleasure to acknowledge the fact that the present medical doctors of our town actively partake in the work of St. John. Dr. J. R. Enman succeeded Elijah Williams as a chairman of the Taber Branch, in addition to being the examiner of the classes in First Aid and Home Nursing since 1949, Dr. Enman has also been surgeon of the unit since the formation of the Taber Nursing Division No. 302, and Mrs. Enman has been the Nursing Officer of the division.

Dr. John Muth has been the honorary president of the Taber Branch of the Order of St. John since its inception. Dr. Harvey Muth has been the examiner of the candidates for instructor's certificates. At least five instructors were examined by him, and he is also the surgeon of Taber Ambulance Division No. 262. Dr. C. R. Bradford has assisted Dr. Harvey Muth in this work on various occasions.

Dr. A. A. Gorman has been in charge of the Health Department of the local Civilian Defence Committee, and through this organization, he has been in close contact with the Taber Branch of The Order of St. John.

After a short period of inactivity, a class in First Aid was organized in 1949, and was given primarily to the employees of the Canadian Sugar Factories Ltd. This class was instructed by Mr. R. F. Gibb, who, in the same year, commenced teaching First Aid to the Air Cadets of the Taber squadron. In the fall of 1950, a local provisional committee of the St. John Ambulance



Association was formed under the leadership of Elijah Williams. The first work accomplished by this committee was the carrying out of the local campaign in support of the St. John National campaign held during October of that year.

On January 30th, 1951, the organizational meeting was held in Taber with a good number of interested people in attendance. The proposal of organizing a local centre was enthusiastically received, and the Taber branch came into being. The late Mr. Elijah Williams was elected as first chairman of the organization. His desire for such an organization was at long last fulfilled. Mr. Williams has since passed away, but the splendid ground work he laid bears fruit now in the work of this association.

The St. John Ambulance Division No. 262, Taber Branch, was formed on the 24th of June, 1951, with a total membership of twenty charter members. The officers are: Dr. Harvey A. Muth, divisional surgeon; R. B. Evanson, superintendent; L. S. Price, ambulance officer; R. Scholes, secretary.

Drills are held once each week for the purpose of training in stretcher and ambulance

duties. This division stands ready at all times to serve the public in any emergency.

The St. John Ambulance Taber Branch Nursing Division No. 302 was formed on July 6th, 1951, with a membership of twenty charter members. Officers are: Dr. J. R. Enman, divisional surgeon; Mrs. J. R. Enman, nursing officer; Mrs. J. C. Mabley, lady divisional superintendent; Mrs. P. Campbell, lady ambulance officer; Mrs. Irene Vermiere, secretary-treasurer. Drills are held twice each month for training in first aid and nursing duties. The nursing division is fully equipped for this training, and is ready to serve on all occasions where accidents are liable to occur.

"Taber citizens are justly thankful for this organization which gives them assurance that trained persons will be able to meet an emergent situation which may arise out of accident or sudden illness. It was so aptly phrased by Mr. John Landysheff, instructor and first vice-chairman of the local executive, relative to the St. John Ambulance Association when he stated "It was not raining when Noah built his Ark".

## Taber Hospital



Taber Hospital built in 1943

A monument to community co-operation and enterprise, the Taber Municipal Hospital was officially opened on Friday, September 17th, 1943, with fitting ceremonies featuring an ad-

dress by the Provincial Minister of Public Health, Hon. W. W. Cross, M.D.

Dr. Bow, deputy minister, and E. E. Maxwell, supervisor of hospitals, were present, as well as

many prominent citizens of the south, including many medical men. All of these visitors came to join with Taber in marking another milestone in the busy town's history.

A shower was held following the ceremony and large numbers of articles needed for the hospital were donated by societies, citizens and friends. A ball was held in the Social Hall that evening, which rounded out an eventful day.

The first hospital board, representative of the Town of Taber, Municipal District of Eureka, and adjacent area, was composed of Chairman Mayor Douglas Miller, T. M. Allen, Sr., and R. F. Brewin. Miss Claudia Tennant was the first matron, and Mr. Geo. H. Savage the first secretary-treasurer. Dr. John H. Muth was the first medical superintendent. Now in 1952, the board is composed of Chairman T. M. Allen, R. F. Brewin and Douglas Miller. Miss Florence Watkins is the matron, and Dr. John H. Muth is the medical superintendent. There are also four other private practising physicians in the town, namely: Dr. H. A. Muth, Dr. A. A. Gorman, Dr. J. R. Enman and Dr. C. R. Bradford. Mr. Ted James is the secretary-treasurer.

The Taber Municipal Hospital is a modern \$70,000 building — a basement and one storey structure of concrete, brick and frame with shingle roof. The overall dimensions are thirty feet wide by one hundred and sixty-eight feet long. However, since the opening date eight years ago, many improvements and finishing touches have been added: the basement has been completed so the hospital has an additional number of wards, the sewer connections were installed in,

1951, the area surrounding the hospital has been landscaped and a garden cultivated. A fine new nurses' residence was built in 1950.

The hospital is designed for a normal capacity of forty patients, with additional accommodation in nursery and two large solariums. The building is placed centrally on a generous site and is contemplated as the central unit for two future wings. We understand one of these wings will be built this year (1952).

The nurses' residence, built on the same site, is a building thirty-two feet by seventy-two feet, and is home to sixteen nurses. It is an attractive building, nicely decorated and furnished.

The service and utility unit in the hospital is composed of the operating suite; complete with case room, major operating room, doctors' scrub room, high pressure steam sterilizing equipment room, X-ray room and its dark room, lavatories and utility rooms. The services supplied in this group include the main kitchen, diet kitchen, laboratory, boiler room and a well equipped laundry.

Generally the building is spacious and bright, having been finished in cheerful colors, as well as with acoustic finish for the control of reverberation, and sound proofing to eliminate noise transmission. In general, it has been the policy of all those connected with this project to give full consideration to the comfort of the patient and to see that he has all possible hospital facilities compatible with this type of hospitalization.

---

## The Taber Fire Brigade

The history of Taber's Volunteer Fire Brigade is almost as old as the town itself, and dates from the year 1907 when Taber was incorporated and a mayor and council elected.

J. Truswell, the first mayor and his council, realizing the fire hazard that existed from so many shacks and small homes using coal as fuel, early took steps to provide some protection, and two chemical engines were secured. These consisted of two-wheeled hand carts, each having a fifty-gallon chemical tank; and were drawn by man power by ropes attached to the vehicle. A

cross bar on the tongue was supported by a man on each side, thus holding the cart level, while others dragged on the ropes and the cart was propelled in this manner. It was not exactly a labor of love to drag these carts to a fire over rough, and sometimes rutted frozen roads, but the sturdy man-power by a group of enlisted volunteers did the job. They were young, and could run in those days.

Probably, the first serious conflagration that might be recorded, as an example, was the Taber Trading Company Store, situated across the

street from the newly completed Palace Hotel. About 8 p.m. on a cold winter night in January, 1909, a boy rushed into Campbell and Anderson's store, then on Railway Street, and told Bob Anderson that smoke was coming out of the Douglas building. He gave the alarm, and soon the two chemical engines arrived. It was found that the fire was located in the store basement. There was no means of access to the building, the doors being locked. Tom Parkinson seized an axe and cut an opening in the doorway floor, and the chemicals were turned on. It was soon evident that these could not cope with the blaze, and when they were exhausted, the fire spread to the ground floor, setting off a quantity of ammunition. In the meantime, a hurried call for help was telephoned to Lethbridge, where a fire engine was loaded on a flat car and rushed to Taber. In the haste of unloading at the water tank, a plank slipped and the engine crashed to the ground, thus breaking a wheel. Cappy Faulds was in charge, and he was destined later to become an historical figure in Taber.

By herculean efforts of scores of willing volunteers, and despite the thirty below weather the fire was soon under control and got no further than the west gable of the stone building housing the Eastern Township Bank. Some of the old timers like L. T. Westlake, Tom Hodgson, George Millar, Charlie Edwards and Roy Lee as well as many others, will remember that hectic night.

Hence, was given added impetus to the building up of the Fire Department, and when a little later, Cappy Faulds accepted the position of Fire Chief and Chief of Police, things really began to move. The town water system, now in operation, made the use of a proper fire wagon and hose possible. This was procured, and installed in the fire hall and a team of horses procured and stabled beside it, in charge of Jim Pearson. Cappy and he trained the team, and it was quite an interesting sight to see the horses, when the

alarm bell rang, rush from their stalls to each side of the wagon tongue where the harness suspended above them was dropped on their backs by pulling a cord, a few snaps fastened, and they were rarin' to go — a beautiful display of intelligence and efficiency. In the meantime, the men upstairs slid the pole, were on to the truck and away. A Dodge truck was procured in 1917, displacing the lovely horses, and gave valuable service for many years. In 1919 Cappy instituted the first Firemen's Ball for the entertainment of his volunteers, and to give the public an opportunity of expressing their appreciation of services rendered.

This annual ball held in October every year since is the social event of the season and has become famous. The beautiful decorations to the hall by the firemen are a wonder and delight to all. Cappy died in 1938 after many years of loyal service. During depression years especially, he and his firemen were blessed by many needy families to whom they gave Christmas hampers of food and clothing. The Firemen still continue their charities where need arises, the funds from the annual ball being the source of supply. The annual children's costume ball is also an event sponsored by the local fire brigade, and is eagerly anticipated by children and grown-ups alike from far and near. In 1950 the wives of the firemen organized an auxiliary, and are an active group. In recent years, the firemen and retail merchants have jointly sponsored a Shopping Day which is held in the early part of December, which day is highlighted by a visit from Santa Claus with a bag of treats for each youngster.

In November of 1938, Angus McKay took over the job of Police and Fire Chief, and today, a body of volunteers some twenty strong, now equipped with the most modern appliances, are on their toes ready to tackle any fire. The services of these men to the community are beyond price, and Taber is and should be proud of their volunteer firemen.



TABER RODEO



## The Taber Rodeo

The story of a town such as ours would not be complete without touching on the annual rodeo which is a part of the picture of most towns in the West. The first Taber Rodeo was held on May 24th, 1940, instigated by a young man by the name of Vern Franklin who came to Taber in April of 1940. The Taber Town Council and the Mayor at that time, Douglas Miller, deemed it advisable to turn the proposition over to the local Board of Trade. A committee of business men was formed to get the Rodeo idea underway. H. H. Bartram headed the committee with Cecil Johnson as its secretary and other members were Silvio Bonette, A. K. Bullock, Marr Bodie and James Black.

The first rodeo, in spite of inclement weather, proved to be a success, and committee members decided to stage the event annually.

The celebration scheduled for 1941, however, was cancelled owing to shortages created by the War. The following year, work was commenced on building corrals and chutes in the fair grounds. Stock was arranged for, and the arena

manager that year was Mr. Clark Lund, a twice winner of the All Round Canadian Championship.

For the next six years, the Rodeo proved to be an outstanding success; drawing riders from as far south as Arizona. In 1949, it had grown to such an extent that the present location was no longer large enough, and the Committee now consisted of eleven members. Local barrister, Fred Pritchard, was appointed treasurer; and an Association was formed governed by the laws of the Province. A new site, just west of the local water tower, was donated to the Association by the Town of Taber, and in 1950, the grandstand was moved to the new site.

The stock men through the years have been Messrs. Hall and Wills, and the event is now a two-day rodeo held annually. A parade is also an annual feature, with varied and beautiful floats being entered by local business concerns and organizations. Thus, with the co-operation of the whole community combined with the aggressiveness of the Rodeo Committee the Taber Rodeo is now known all over the West.

---

## The Legion, B.E.S.L.

The Taber Branch of the Canadian Legion B.E.S.L., was organized on April 10th, 1919, T. Sneddon being elected president with the late P. E. Rose, secretary, and the late B. L. Cooke, K.C. was named solicitor for the branch and a member of the executive.

About one hundred and fifty men joined up for service during the Great War from Taber and district, the greatest number going with the 3rd C.M.R., Medicine Hat, the 113th Battalion and the 39th Battery, Lethbridge.

One of the highlights of the Taber club was the visit in 1922 by the late Lord Byng of Vimy, then Governor-General of Canada

The War Memorial, erected to the memory of the twenty-five men of Taber and district who fell in the Great War was unveiled on the 11th of July, 1928. The Memorial was the culmination of the effort started more than eight years previously by the G.W.V.A., the predecessor of the Canadian Legion.

A permanent committee, composed of Comrades Jas. Makinson, W. H. Peard, D. Yuill, J. Ascroft, A. McRoberts, J. Mullen, W. Williams, D. Gardner, W. Murdock, J. Appleton, H. Bland, T. Love, R. Huntley, T. Meacham, and Secretary George Vayro, was responsible for this splendid memorial, the cost of which was more than \$2,500.00.

With the exception of the statue, the Memorial is entirely the work of the local war veterans. The late "Cappy" Faulds drew the design, and constructed the model, with the assistance of the Committee and members of the Legion branch.

Comrade Thos. Love posed for the statue. The photographs were sent to Italy, where master sculptors completed what is said to be one of the most perfect replicas extant of a Canadian soldier.

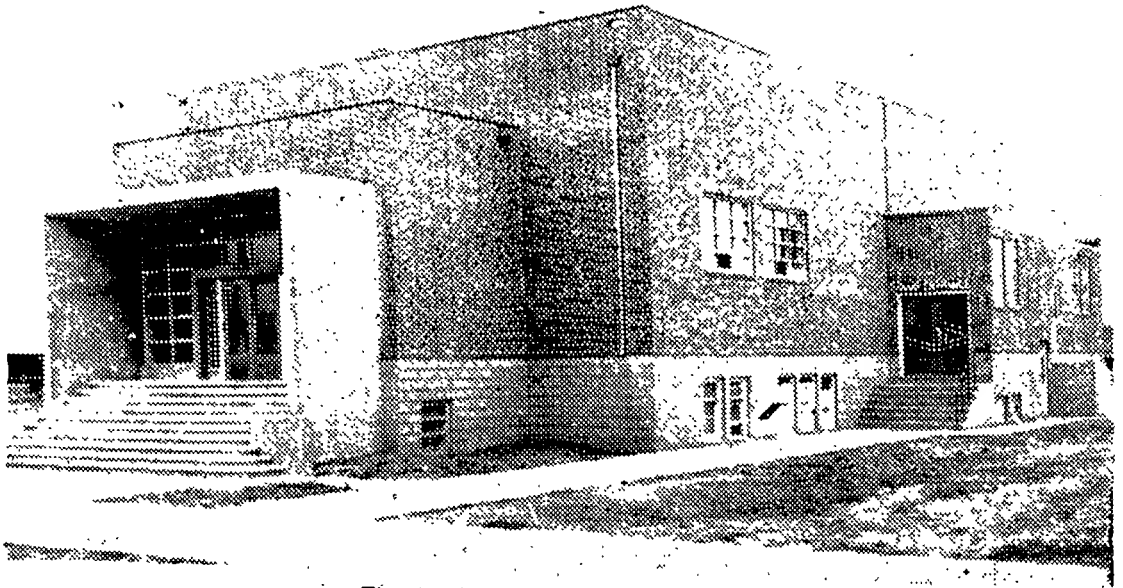
The Memorial stands in the Municipal Park of Taber, and at the unveiling ceremony, it was

formally presented to the Town Council for custody, on behalf of the Taber branch of the Canadian Legion by the late Comrade B. L. Cooke. Senator W. A. Buchanan was the principal speaker at the ceremony, while the musical portion of the service was led by the Taber Legion Band, and full pipe band from Lethbridge.

Shortly after the return of the soldiers from the Great War, the old Miners' band and the

with equipment loaned from Taber business firms.

During the month of July, 1949, the new Legion Memorial Hall was officially opened by President "Billy" Williams of the Taber branch of the Canadian Legion, in a colorful ceremony. Constructed of brick and concrete, the building embodies a spacious auditorium complete with stage and dressing rooms, a large modern kitchen, game and beverage rooms, cloak rooms and other club facilities.



The Legion Hall July 14th, 1949.

Taber town band were reorganized under the Canadian Legion. This band won much honor at various competitions and musical festivals.

However, it disbanded about three years ago, owing to the moving away from Taber of many of the bandsmen. Plans are at present under way to reorganize the Canadian Legion band.

During World War II, many of the older members of the Taber unit realized that the old Legion headquarters would be inadequate to accommodate the large number of men and women who joined the armed forces from Taber during World War II, and plans were tentatively made to erect a new Legion Hall when the war was over. With the help and co-operation of Taber residents sufficient money was collected for the erection of the new hall. Much work on the building was done by volunteer labor

**TO THE GLORIOUS MEMORY OF THE MEN OF  
TABER AND DISTRICT WHO FELL IN THE  
GREAT WAR 1914-1918**

|             |              |                |
|-------------|--------------|----------------|
| P. Appleby  | K. C. Finley | C. M. Peterson |
| J. Bartlett | C. Fraser    | J. Peterson    |
| B. Carter   | W. Hart      | W. C. Porter   |
| E. Caswell  | J. Lockyer   | J. Rintoul     |
| W. R. Cook  | R. Love      | C. M. Scadden  |
| O. Daigle   | A. Malm      | H. Scott       |
| V. Davis    | J. Mangon    | B. Searle      |
| F. Fair     | T. Peacock   | W. Stratton    |
|             |              | F. Whitcut     |

**TO THE GLORIOUS MEMORY OF THE MEN OF  
TABER AND DISTRICT WHO FELL IN WORLD  
WAR II — 1939 - 1945.**

|                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Bernard O'Donnell | Noel Keith      |
| Donald Wager      | Howard Keith    |
| Leo Quaife        | Laurence Gibson |
| Evan Evans        | Grassy Lake     |
| Orsen Haynes      | Elmer Johnson   |
| Bruce Bennett     | Barnwell        |

## Taber Squadron, Royal Canadian Air Cadets

In 1941, when the Royal Canadian Air Cadet Movement was authorized through Act of Parliament, Taber organized a squadron chartered as 225 Comet Squadron of Taber and Barnwell. In 1949, the name was changed to 225 Taber Squadron. The first Commanding Officer, F/O Lynn Hall was appointed and commissioned. He served in the capacity of Commanding Officer from 1941 to 1948.

Other officers to serve with Mr. Hall were F/O Rev. J. Evans as Adjutant (1941-45) and F/O Mar Bodie as Equipment Officer (1941-45). F/O Ole Olson was Officer i/c Barnwell Flight (1941-1944). These officers, with the able guidance of the Civilian Committee composed of Mr. W. R. Myers as Chairman; Rev. J. A. Collett, Secretary (1941-1943) and George Vayro, Secretary (1943-49) and committee members, H. H. Bartram and David Gardner, built up a squadron of almost one hundred members, and did an excellent job of training.

In 1945, Taber Squadron, along with many other Air Cadet Squadrons throughout Canada, took a decided slump in Air Cadet enrollment. However, with F/O Lynn Hall still at the helm, and with the late Len Haworth as adjutant, the Squadron carried on with the reduced membership until 1948 when Mr. Hall moved from Taber. The Squadron lay fairly dormant, and Cadets Firth and Holman held whatever parades they could and endeavoured to keep alive the spark of Air Cadet Citizenship Training in Taber.

In February of 1949, Northwest Air Command, feeling that Taber Squadron would not be revived sent personnel to close out the Squadron. On conferring with members of the Civilian Committee, it was decided to appoint new Air Cadet Officers, and the Civilian Committee was reorganized.

Mr. Stan Bartram, Commanding Officer, was in due course commissioned and has since obtained the rank of Squadron Leader. Mr. Jock Kinniburgh was recommissioned as Adjutant, and now holds rank of Flight Lieutenant. Mr. Floyd Terriff served one year as Equipment Officer as did Mr. G. W. Brown. The present Equipment Officer is Flying Officer Metro Gushaty. The Civilian Committee, organized

in 1949, was headed by David Gardner as chairman and Mr. Robert Wright was the secretary. Committee members were H. H. Bartram, Wm. Williams, Joseph Jackson, L. T. Westlake and Robert Anderson.

Starting in April of 1949, with a membership of 14 cadets, the Squadron has grown steadily until the year 1951 when it attained a membership of 119. In December of 1951, the Squadron took over the old Skating Rink building as their headquarters, which they occupy at the present time. The following ex-cadets have embarked on service careers:

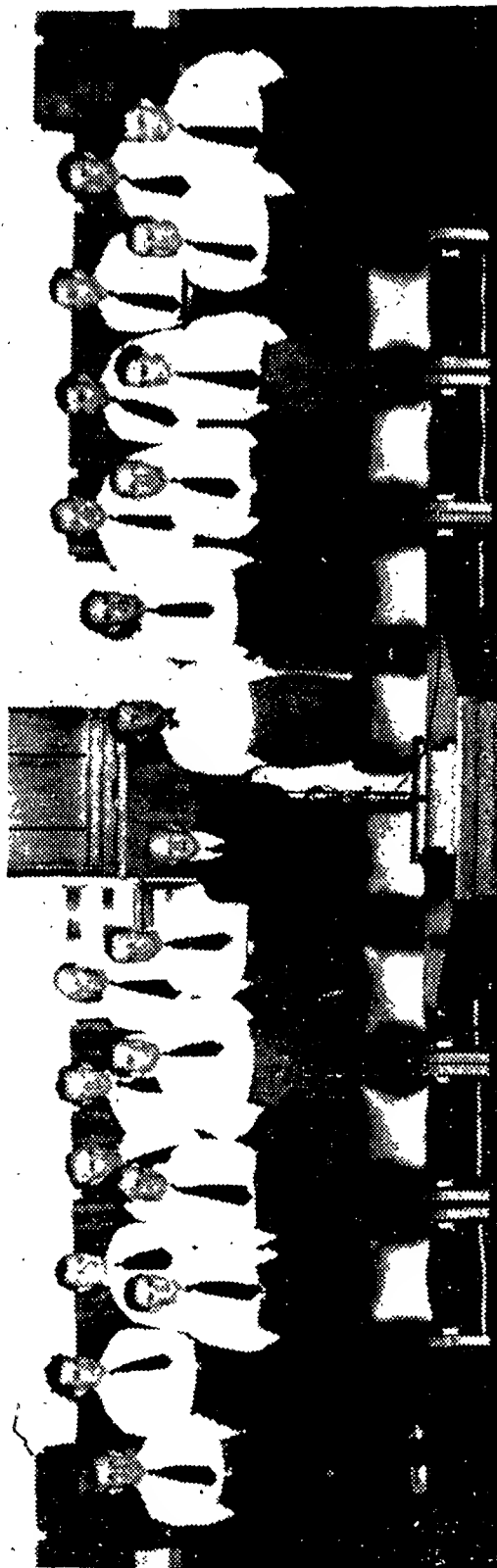
F/O G. Hall, F/O E. Firth at Claresholm, Alta., taking flying training. Murray Kee and Robert Janscek are in the R.C.A.F. ground crew stationed in Eastern Canada. A. "Sandy" Rintoul is serving in the Royal Canadian Navy.

The R.C.A.F., each year, awards Flying Scholarships to outstanding Cadets and the following have been successful in obtaining their "wings" through Taber Squadron: D. Hutchinson, E. Firth, G. Hall, Garth, Keith and Jerry Palmer, Glen Gardner, Colin Stubbart and Kenneth Johnson. Glen Gardner was also fortunate in winning an Overseas Exchange Visit through diligent service to the Squadron.

Honorable mention must be made of those hard-working individuals who comprise the Instructor Staff (past and present): Roscoe F. Gibb, first aid; L. G. Tallman, telegraphy; I. E. Andrews, radio; E. Firth, drill; A. Hales, radio; Ray Napper, navigation; John Landysheff, principles of flight; Kay Holman, drill; and G. Gardner, meteorology.

At the beginning of the 1951-52 Cadet year, the following changes were made in the Civilian Committee: H. H. Bartram was appointed chairman and R. L. Anderson, the secretary. Committee members remain as previously mentioned with Chief of Police J. E. Pittaway replacing Chief Joseph Jackson. It is, indeed, a lovely sight to see these lads stepping briskly along in their smart uniforms, at various parades. The Citizenship Training they receive through the Cadet movement will better enable them to face the world as they attain manhood.

TABER MALE VOICE CHOIR



Reading from left to right back row: Maurice Scott, Howard Christensen, Cpl. Slinn, William Maier, Hubert Pyne, Ross Gibb, Stan. Bartram, Edwin Palmer, Harvey Vickery and Arnold Odland.

Front Row: Roy Maier, Wallace McDonald, Keith Harris, Dave Ellingson, Conductor George Humphries, Accompanist Loren Easthope, Rev. Arthur J. Thompson, T. C. Byrne, Fred Pritchard, Albert Clark and R. McKenzie.

April 1st, 1949, at the L.D.S. Church.



## Biographies of the Pioneers

This section of our history is dedicated to the rugged pioneers— those brave men and women of faith, courage, endurance and foresight who came to this new land at the turn of the century.

### COLLETT

Charles C. Collett, an early pioneer of the Taber district, came from Idaho to Magrath in 1902, and to Taber in 1903 with his two eldest sons, Charles, Jr., Philemon and sons-in-law, Joseigh Tufts and D. Burbank. "Charlie" Collett was a lover of good horses and made a study of horses and cattle. He was the only veterinary in the district, and was in great demand for miles around, always managing to find time to answer every call.

He had the first threshing machine here, horse power at first and then later steam power. There are still living in the district, two sons and four daughters of Charles and Ann Collett — Melissa VanOrman, Lenora C. Hodgson, Harriet C. Russell, Lola C. Saunders, D. Reuben Collett and Morgan Collett. In addition to the immediate family, there are one hundred and twelve descendents of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Collett residing in the Taber district.

### FURMAN — JETT

Old timers of the West will long remember

Mr. Charles Furman, and will link all that is good of the early ranching days with that memory.

The late Charlie Furman came from Oregon to Alberta in 1884, with his father and mother, two sisters and one brother. They travelled by wagon, herding on the trail, some three hundred head of stock. They located east of the present town of Milk River. In 1900, the family moved up to Chin Coulee, some twenty-five miles southeast of Taber, and north of Skiff.

In 1905, Charlie moved into Taber and opened a meat market. The following year, 1906, he and J. B. Jett formed a partnership, their business being the raising and butchering of cattle. For thirty years, the names of J. B. Jett and C. E. Furman were practically synonymous.

In 1914, they bought out Maunsell Bros., north of Taber, with 65,000 acres of leased land, and 1,000 acres of deeded land between the Bow and Belly Rivers.

Furman and Jett brought in from Mexico 2,000 head of cattle. Prairie fires forced them to move their herds to Montana where they were sold, and the Alberta land was restocked with Canadian cattle. Mr. Furman was married in 1907, but his wife died the following year, leav-



First of July Celebration, Taber, 1915

ing a son to his father's care, Charles, Junior, who now resides at Grassy Lake. "Charlie" Furman passed on in October of 1950, leaving behind him a wealth of memories.

His former partner, J. B. Jett, still has a warm spot in his heart for Alberta, and comes from California annually to visit in the Taber district. The following item was clipped from the local newspaper, The Taber Times, last summer:

"Taber Baseball Park will be known in future as the J. B. Jett Stadium, it was announced this week by Jack Pierson for the Taber Volunteer Firemen.

"Mr. Jett, well-known old timer and business man of Taber, has donated a 16 x 16 ft. score board to the local baseball park. Long a sport enthusiast and supporter, Mr. Jett was associated with "Charlie" Furman in the ranching business and meat market, closed since he retired, but which was an outstanding business in the early days of Taber."

§ § §

**MRS. EUNICE DANFORTH FOOTE**

In the next few paragraphs, we are happy to pay tribute to an outstanding woman pioneer of our district, and a member of the Women's Institute. Mrs. Eunice Danforth Foote came to

the Taber district with her husband and five sons in the spring of 1907. They shipped their stock and machinery from North Dakota, and bought a half section of land fifteen miles south-east of the C.P.R. water tank, Tank 77.

The real estate men used to drive prospective land buyers out, contriving to reach the farm "with the good cook" just at meal time. "I never charged anybody a cent, but they always paid well", recalls Mrs. Foote. John Willard, driving in with a prospect, saw flowers blooming in the yard, and said, "Ho, ho, there's a woman here." "Yes", she said dolefully, "but only one — and how I longed to see and to talk with another woman". Later, John Fletcher stopped in with his wife and two children on the way to his farm in the Hudson district. Later yet, as Taber grew, Mrs. Danforth attended Ladies' Aid regularly, her husband driving her across country with a swift-stepping team and democrat.

A. B. Danforth died in 1917, and his sons continued to farm the home place, and later acquired more land. Mrs. Danforth was first president of the Kinniburgh Home Circle, formed in 1915, and continued in that office until she moved to Taber in 1918. If club business came up between meetings, she would ring each member on the party line, saying "Stay on, until all had receiver to ear, at which time Mrs. Danforth



**MRS. E. M. FOOTE'S BIRTHDAY PARTY, 1941.**

Mrs. R. L. Rash, Mrs. H. G. Ridley, Mrs. A. E. Cradduck, Mrs. Willard Cook, Mrs. E. M. Foote, Mrs. H. Fenton, Miss Wilda Ridley, Mrs. T. L. Rash, Bernice Cradduck, Mrs. J. Shaw, Mrs. G. Rutherford, Catherine Rutherford

would state the problem, call for discussion, and the vote would take place then and there. The Club later became the Institute, and Mrs. Danforth has been a continuous member, wherever she lived. She has been mentor, loved and revered, and now an honorary member.

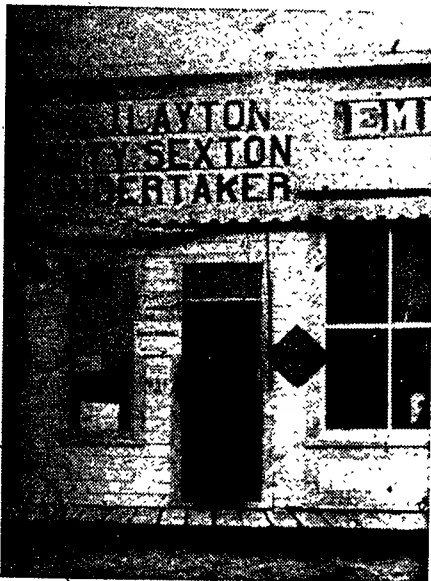
While residing in Lethbridge, she was married to Charles M. Foote in 1933, and they moved to his farm at Nemiscam, Alberta. Mr. Foote died two years later, and in 1937 Mrs. Foote returned to Taber to live. She always welcomed her many visitors with a hot cup of tea and light doughnuts or cookies — and always in the growing season there were flowers in her garden, or blooming plants on her window sills. Flowers have always grown for her, no matter if the season was dry and windy. All flower lovers know that care, forethought and hard work are

needed to make flowers grow in the south eastern section of Alberta.

Mrs. Foote has taken an active part in community activities; was always a good neighbour, and never allowed crop failures, sickness, sorrow or difficulties to "get her down". Her skilful fingers made many gifts of clothing for those in need. Of late years her talents in needlework and in blending colors have chiefly found expression in the making of lovely patchwork quilts. Many homemakers in the Taber district treasure her quilts; many have been made for her own family; some have gone overseas; some to women's clubs — especially to the Kinniburgh Women's Institute.

Now ninety-two years of age, of sound mind and clear memory, she still has her keen sense of humor and her shining courage — an outstanding pioneer woman.

S. J. LAYTON



The above is a picture of another of our pioneers, S. J. Layton. He arrived in Taber during the year, 1903, accompanied by his daughter, Maggie. He opened up a general store, and also sold farm implements. The following year, 1904, he went to Mountain View, Alberta, returning with his wife, Sarah, and family. They took up residence in the new home which "S. J." as he was popularly known, had built. Mr. Layton was active in the work of the L.D.S. church, and in

public life was chairman of the local school board for a number of years.

Of interest here, too, is the fact that Maggie Layton was Taber's first bride, marrying Frank Stewart in 1905.

When the mines opened up, "S. J." was employed as blacksmith and also went around the country shoeing horses. He built a number of homes on Taber's north side, which he rented to miners who were flocking into Taber at this time to work in the mines.

Later on, he became the first Justice of the Peace, and held court in his own office, as depicted in the photo. Old-timers say that every long stroke of his whiskers meant three months in jail, and every short stroke ten dollars and costs. "S. J." was the first city sexton and Taber's first undertaker.

Sarah Layton assisted the doctors in maternity cases, and also nursed many of the sick in the district back to health. She passed away in 1926. Twelve children were born to the union of Sam and Sarah Layton, and one of their sons, Clarence, affectionately known as "Pop" far and wide, is the popular custodian of the local public school. Mrs. Annie Easthope, Mrs. Maggie Stewart and Mrs. Thursa Russell are all daughters now resident in Taber.

S. J. Layton died on May 20th, 1944, a few days from his ninetieth birthday, after having lived a full and happy life, rich with experience.

### MRS. HAYNES

Another of our pioneer women is Mary Ann Haynes, or "Grandma" Haynes, as she is affectionately known. Her grandfather, William Garner, was one of the very first converts to the L.D.S. Church in England. His entire family, with the exception of one boy and one girl, were stricken with smallpox and died. William Garner, after this terrible blow, decided to come to America, bringing his son and daughter with



Mary Ann Haynes

him. A few years later, a young woman, name of Mary Field, became a convert to the church also, and immigrated to America. William Garner, Jr. and Mary Field became man and wife and Mary Ann was their first child. The Garners lived in Utah, near the shores of the great Salt Lake. It was here that Mary Ann Garner met and married John Haynes. From their union came the Haynes family of fourteen children, eleven of whom are still living.

Mr. and Mrs. Haynes came to the Taber district in 1907. Now in her ninety-fourth year, Mrs. Haynes has been a member of the L.D.S. Relief Society for the past seventy years, and also has been active in other phases of church work. "Grandma" Haynes enjoys good health, performs all of her household tasks, and every spring plants a flower garden which she carefully tends

during the summer months. This grand old lady is another outstanding pioneer woman.

§ § § §

### MAXWELL DONALDSON

Maxwell Donaldson came to Lethbridge in 1885, and for several years was employed as an engineer on the railroad through Taber. He homesteaded at Grassy Lake, to our east, in 1900, and came to reside in Taber in 1927. He died in 1947, and his widow, Mrs. Annie Donaldson, still lives here. There were six children in the family and those still in the Taber district are: Mrs. Muriel Jespersen, Mrs. Jean McKibben and Sam Donaldson.

§ § § §

### JOHN PETER JOHNSON

John Peter Johnson is another of our pioneers, who was born on October 6th, 1866 in Westmanuur, Iceland, and immigrated to Utah in 1872. He was married Lula Goodmanson, also from Westmannur, Iceland, in Provo, Utah, on the 26th of February, 1891. They moved with their family to Taber in 1905.

Mr. Johnson, one of the first workers in the Canada West Coal Mine, wheeled the first wheelbarrow of coal to the car. He remained with the company as an engineer and steam shovel operator until the mine closed down. He served two years on the council of the town, and was active in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, in which he attained the office of High Priest.

Mrs. Johnson was a practical nurse and worked for many years with Drs. Lang, Leech, Rose and Hamman on maternity cases and illnesses of many kinds. She helped bring many of our early families into the world, one of special interest being Mrs. Wm. Valgardson and all of her eight children.

Mrs. Johnson was always a willing helper to those in need, and will long be remembered for her many kindnesses. She was also a member of the burial committee, and assisted greatly in the early days before funeral services were available.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson were the parents of twelve children. Mrs. Johnson passed away on March 8th, 1949, at the age of 82, her husband having predeceased her on December 15th, 1935, at the age of 69. Both had attained a high place in the lives and memory of their many friends.

MRS. RUSSELL

Adam Russell with his wife, Hannah Maria Russell, homesteaded in the Taber district in 1903. They located about five miles north of the Taber townsite. Mr. Russell also took up lands for his sons, John H., Heber and Lewis.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Russell were active in the L.D.S. Church, and Mrs. Russell, who was a nurse, assisted greatly in the early days in



Mr. and Mrs. Adam Russell

cases of illness. After the doctors arrived, she assisted them in their work, with no other means to go from case to case except by walking. Both Adam Russell and his wife went out with the doctors during the 'flu epidemic in 1918.

Mrs. Russell took an active part in the work of the L.D.S. Church right up until her seventy-fifth year, and she died at the age of eighty-six years and eight months, her husband having predeceased her in May of 1926.

They were the parents of seven children and their posterity still resident in Taber are one daughter, Mrs. Sally Edwards, and one son, David Russell, as well as four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

DR. A HAMMAN

Birthday honors were accorded Dr. A. Hamman, well-known old timer of Taber, by family and friends on the occasion of his eighty-fifth birthday on April 28th, 1951. A calling tea was held and a great many of the doctor's friends called to wish him well. He received many lovely gifts, and ladies of the Relief Society and of the Women's Institute assisted his daughters in serving tea to the many guests.

Dr. Hamman recalled early days in Taber and some of his experiences since coming to Canada sixty-three years ago.



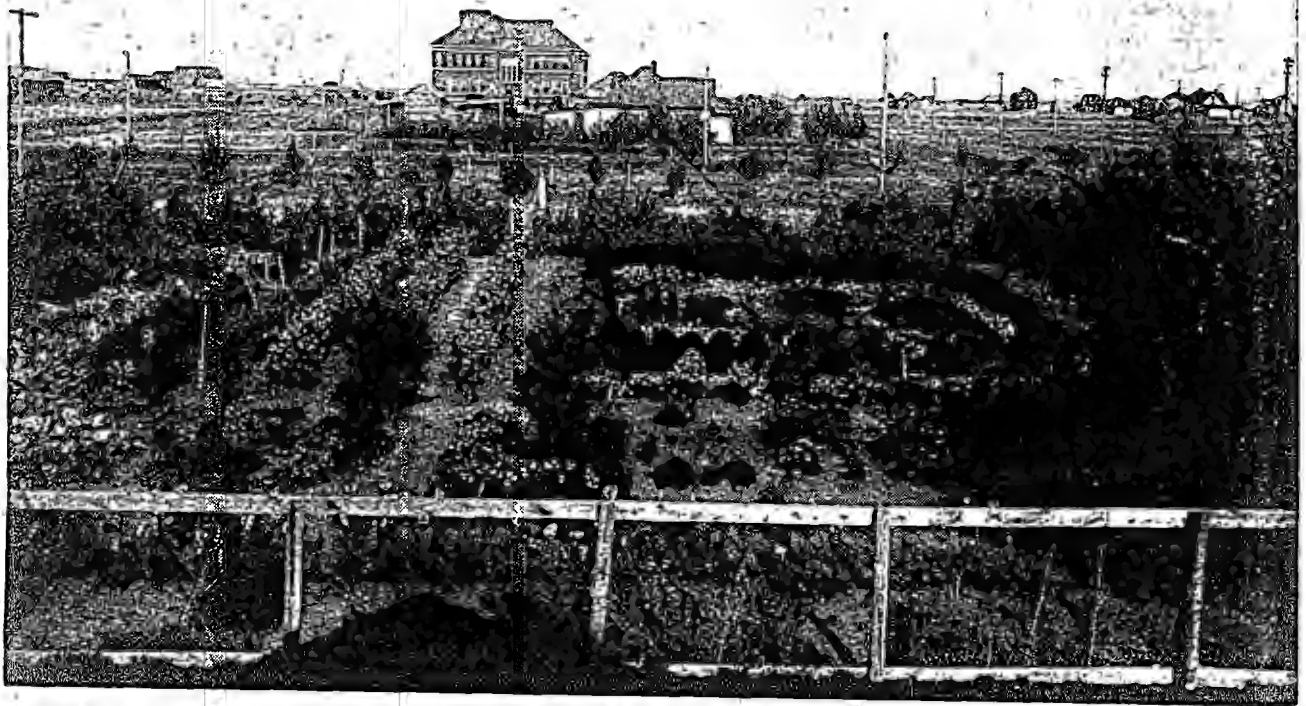
Dr. A. Hamman — Taken on his 82nd Birthday

The doctor was born in Knutsford, Cheshire, England in 1866, where he spent his boyhood and attended school. At the age of twenty-two years, he left England, after having won scholarships and completing two years of teachers' training which gave him a coveted position in regard to the teaching profession. On arriving in Winnipeg, he applied for, and proceeded to his first school, Bun Cladey, in Southern Manitoba.

It was at this school he first met the late Mrs. Hamman, then Jane Elizabeth Barber, whom the doctor was to marry ten years later. He received forty dollars a month for his school teaching services, and his friends thought he was doing nothing short of highway robbery to accept such a huge sum for a month's wages!

The doctor completed four years of medical studies in Winnipeg, during which time he taught school in the summer months. He practised medicine at Wawanesa, Manitoba, for ten years, and then proceeded with his family to Taber in 1909, where he has resided ever since. He purchased and added to the home which is still a landmark.

Words fail to express the story of the doctor's services to Taber, which are known to all those who experienced the 'flu epidemic of 1918, and the depression years of the thirties. The many expressions of good will by his visitors on the occasion of his birthday bore witness to the place which Doctor Hamman will always hold in the estimation of his many friends in Taber and district.



Dr. Hamman's Flower Garden, 1912, present site of C. A. Kullberg residence.



Dr. Hamman's Flower Exhibit at Fair in 1913

The initial agricultural fair was held in Taber in the year 1909 and several years later a school fair was organized. Dr. A. Hamman aided by the Hon. A. J. (Archie) McLean secured a plot of ground just south of the W. E. Walker residence to use as the school children's gardens. The gardens flourished, and the Hamman and Hesketh children were among those who received many prizes on the entries from their gardens.

§ § § §

### HIBBERT PARSONS MUNRO

Hibbert Parsons Munro came to Taber in 1906 from Carberry, Manitoba, as assistant and bookkeeper for the Taber Trading Company, a general store which was situated on the east corner of Front Street or Railway Street. He also officiated at the small post office in the rear of the store, the first post office in Taber, and in 1908 was appointed post master. When this building was destroyed by fire one winter night early in 1909, the post office equipment was saved and moved to the Sample Room of the Palace Hotel, and was open for business as usual the following morning. Influx of settlers into Taber, and the surrounding district, with no rail line but the Lethbridge-Dunmore (later known as the Crow's Nest line) between the Bow and the border, and the south partly unsurveyed, made the post office work at Taber very heavy. At this time there were some four hundred different publications passing through this office, for mail had to be sorted for settlers as far north as Brooks and south to the border. In short, Taber Post Office serviced the settlers in an area extending as much as forty or fifty miles from the town. The rapid growth of the community made it necessary for the government to choose a new site, and in 1909 Mr. Munro built the post office opposite the town hall (or Memorial Park) on what is now 49th Ave.

Hibbert Munro was the direct descendant of Col. Henry Munro, who received a grant of two thousand acres of land in the Annapolis Valley from King George III in 1763 in appreciation of loyal service in the British Army. Descendants of the family still reside on part of this original grant, and it was here Hibbert Munro was born July 1, 1877, a son of an Empire Loyalist, Henry Munro, M.P.P., Kings County.

Mr. Munro married, in 1907, Mabel Leslie Munro, a daughter of a Fergus, Ontario, family also named Munro. He met Miss Munro while she was teaching school at MacGregor, Manitoba. They moved into their new home in the

Douglas Addition at a time when there was only one other dwelling in this section of the town, and citizens wondered at their building so far out into the country.

Both being lovers of trees and flowers, they immediately proceeded to beautify their home, making it an outstanding one in this regard; despite the fact that during the early days water was purchased by the tank, making this a difficult task. In a few short years pictures of their home appeared in the old Toronto Globe depicting what could be accomplished if only the west had irrigation.

Always interested in religious and educational matters, the Munro family was one of the chief supporters of the church. Mrs. Munro was very prominent in the work of the ladies of the church, particularly the W.M.S., and was elected a Life Member of the British Foreign Bible Society. Mr. Munro was ordained an Elder of the old Knox Presbyterian Church, and when the new church was built in 1911, he continued as one of the chief authorities among the laity. Since early establishment of the order in Taber, he was a prominent member of the Doric Lodge, A.F. and A.M., occupying various offices, and was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows during the period of its existence in Taber. He was for many years a trustee of the Taber School, also secretary and auditor of adjacent schools.

Old timers will remember that Mr Munro was one of the original founders of the Taber Curling Club in which he took an active part until his death, and he was to the fore in the promotion and organizing of various other sports.

On August 5, 1929, Mr. Munro passed away suddenly while on a visit to his former home in Nova Scotia, the remains being brought to Taber for interment. Upon his death, Mrs. Munro was appointed postmistress, which position she held until her retirement in 1944 due to poor health, since which time she has resided in Toronto. Until 1947 this position was held by Donald Leslie Munro, Taber's third postmaster.

Of a family of four sons and twin daughters, three reside in Toronto: Archibald Hibbert, Mrs. Phyllis Jestin, and Mrs. Doris Allen. Lawrence Henry in Sudbury; Kenneth Alexander in Lethbridge and Donald Leslie in Taber. The married sons are quite proud of the fact that their children are the seventh generation Canadian born.

### JOHN EVAN EVANSON

John Evan Evanson, son of John and Vigdis Evanson, was born at Spanish Fork, Utah, U.S.A., October 18, 1883.

He arrived in Taber during May 1903, when the only land mark for miles around was the C.P.R. water tank. He homesteaded the NW 32-9-16W4thM which is now part of the townsite (Mayor Browne now lives on the NW corner). He and his father built many homes and business places in the town including the first home. On April 10, 1907, he married Johannah Johnson at Taber, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Johnson of Spanish Fork, Utah. Five sons and five daughters were born to them, the first, a girl, dying at birth. There are now 25 grandchildren.

John Evan Evanson served twelve (12) years on the town council and also served as mayor for three (3) different terms. He did not seek re-election during 1942 due to his health. In addition to his civic responsibilities, he served many other organizations, both local and provincial. He was always keenly interested in the town and community, and was connected with most progressive steps that were made in the town since Taber was known as "Tank 77".

He died suddenly on June 7, 1942, following an appendectomy, at the age of 58 years.

§ § § §

### MAYOR EDWARD BROWNE

Associated closely with our civic government for a number of years is our present Mayor, Edward Browne. Mr. Browne has been the mayor of Taber continuously since 1944. Previous to becoming mayor, Mr. Browne served as councillor for a number of terms. He came from Ireland in 1906, settling first at Cape Breton Island, and came west, settling at Taber, in 1909. He was associated with the Canada West Mine in Taber, later serving in office with the United Mine Workers of Alberta, British Columbia and Saskatchewan. This position took him to all parts of Canada and the United States, but he always called Taber his home. Of late years, Mr. Browne has been retired, and devotes much of his time to his mayoralty duties, and his duties as police magistrate.

A familiar figure on the main street almost every morning is Mr. Browne on his way down to the town office in the court house.

### R. H. ANDERSON

Mr. R. H. Anderson began business in Taber in 1907 as a partner of A. Campbell who had a short time before opened a clothing business. The partnership continued until in 1931, when



Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Anderson

Mr. Anderson became sole owner of the business, now operated as Anderson & Son.

In 1910, Mr. Anderson married Marion Long, a sister of Mrs. Campbell. Five daughters and one son were born of this union.

Actively interested in community affairs, Mr. Anderson has always been an outstanding citizen. He is a former member of the town council, a member of Doric Lodge No. 31 A.F. & A.M. since 1912, and for many years clerk of the session of the Taber United Church. With his cheerful greeting, kindly manner and friendly guidance and assistance he has been an outstanding example of the good citizenship that has marked the growth of Taber.

§ § § §

### LEWIS OLIVER

Another of our old-timers is Mr. Lewis Oliver who came to Taber from Newcastle-on-Tyne, England, in the year of 1907. He started mining in the John Marsh mine at Wood Pecker (now Barnwell) in the same year. The following



year, 1908, saw Mr. Oliver, William Henderson and Fred White open up the Rock Springs mine. In 1909 Lewis Oliver left the mining business to go homesteading in the Purple Springs district. That same year the present Mrs. Oliver came out from England to be married to Mr. Oliver. Again, he got the urge to go mining, and with his brother, Edward and Jack Doran, they took over the old Domestic Mine until 1912, when he went homesteading again. In 1920, he took over the Bowden Mine for five years, and was at the same time engaged in farming.

He moved to Bow City in 1934, and contracted the strip-mine out there for ten years, moving back to Taber in 1944 to open up his own mine, which is located straight north of Taber on the Old Man River and is operated under the name of Oliver & Sons.

Mr. Oliver has had fifty-five years of mining experience, and relates of starting to work in the mine at the early age of twelve years, ten hours a day and five miles under-ground.

Mr. Lewis Oliver has always been an active sports enthusiast, having played football for

Taber and Grassy Lake from 1907 until 1931. He is also an enthusiastic baseball fan. Mr. and Mrs. Oliver have a family of two sons and three daughters.

---

#### GEORGE BEVERLEY

Another of our fine pioneers is Mr. George Beverley, who came from England to Taber in 1903; his wife and two boys, Alvin and Cyril, coming to join him nine months later. In 1905, his son, Earl, was born. Mr. Beverley homesteaded on a quarter section one mile north of Wadena School, where Mr. and Mrs. Harold Addy now live. He walked that five miles to Taber every day to his work as a carpenter. He did much of the structural work at the Canada West Mine, and has worked on many of the buildings and homes in Taber. He still carries on at his trade, but now people take their work to him and he looks after it in his shop. Mrs. Beverley died on April 23rd, 1946, the son, Cyril, having predeceased her in 1924.



TABER MINER'S FOOTBALL TEAM 1912

Top Row — Billy Noddin (trainer), James Appleton, James Wikan (trainer), Bob Huntley, Andrew Stratton, (———), Teddy Thomas, (———), Edward Westlake, Bob Paterson.

Lower Row — Gregg Huntley, Lewis Oliver (captain), Johnny McMain (vice-captain), Jack Carr.

S. A. FENTON

S. A. Fenton was born in Middletown, Delaware County, N. Y. in 1858. He came to Taber in March, 1909, with his wife and two sons and his father who was eighty-five years old. His father died soon after their arrival, and he was buried at Taber.

Mr. Fenton came to Taber as a steam engineer for the New York Company, and lived at the same location as he lives now. In the spring of 1911, he moved to his own farm a mile farther east and farmed there until 1920, when he moved to the Coaldale district. He returned to Taber in 1929. Mrs. Fenton passed away that same year, and from then on, Mr. Fenton lived with his son, Waldon, and rented his home farm.

He has been a member of the United Church Board since union in 1921.

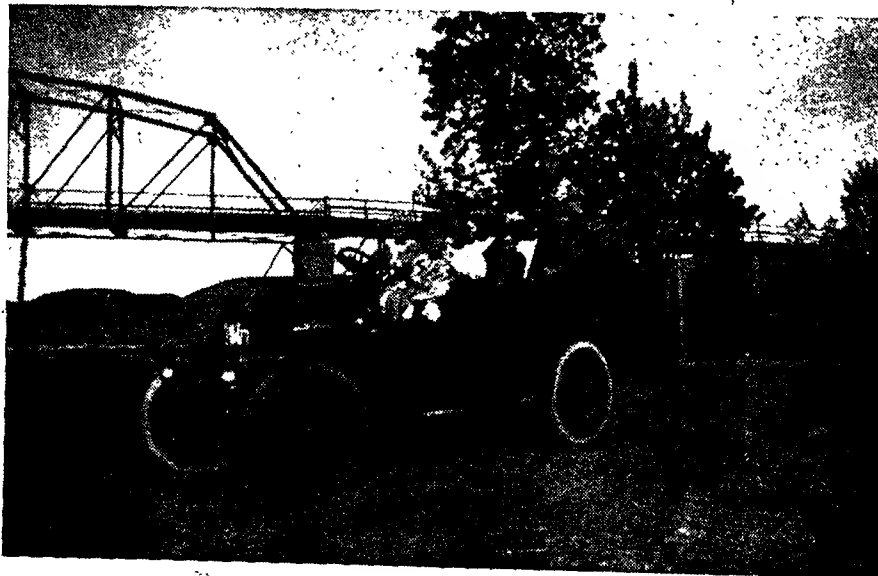
Mr. Fenton now frequently travels to Kenora, Ontario, to visit his son, Leslie, always returning to Taber, which he considers his permanent home.

SOME OF OUR OLD TIMERS

Anyone living in Taber between the years of 1905 to 1910 will be reminded of many old friends when you read this list. We hope we have not omitted too many of those not mentioned else-

where in our history. Some are still with us, others we regret to say, have passed on.

The names follow: George Ewing, McPherson, Charles Pearson, Nick Karras, S. T. McColl, Ed. Wildman, W. McAllister, W. C. Mewhinney, A. Primrose, and sons Scott, and Bert, H. F. Annabel, Geo. Powell, J. T. Stephenson, H. P. Munro, Elijah Williams, Lyon Brothers, J. Serrie, Jack Carrol, John Bell, Frank Bonette, A. B. Danforth and sons, C. W. Sherburne and sons, Kinniburgh and sons, Samuel Dunn, John Easthope, J. R. Fletcher, O. J. Graham, Albert Green, Orson Hall and sons Ab, Dave and Ott, Earl Harding, John Harding, Sam Ayers, the Holman family, Sam Francis, J. J. Walton, J. C. Hobbs, W. Brush Grubb, Geo. C. Millar, F. Kerkhoff, Claude Campbell, George Murphy, Geo. McKillican, H. Kerns, W. E. Walker, Dave Jenkins, John Jenkins, the Whitney family, Irving Gilmore, Dan Burns, A. Rowley, L. E. Lynd, Sidney Bligh, James Glover, H. A. Beard, "Cappy" Faulds, Neilsons, Jensens, D. W. Coulter, Jim McBrayne, Fred Herscher, Bert Sutton, Harry Bland, Harper Prowse, J. H. Hobson, H. B. Myers, W. A. Porteous, W. L. Pierson, W. J. Kilgrow, Swansons, Rev. Cook, Fred Christensen, J. W. Hill, J. Southworth, Aaron Johnson, Leo Scott, Joseph Edwards, Sam Stubbart, Tom Carr, Joe Tuft, Garrick family, Albert Torrie, Englesons, Goodmanson family, Hipp, Black, Hauka and Earl and Lindsay Leck, A. Long, Geo. and Harry Palfrey, John and Anthony Haynes, Verne Wilde and Charlie McCumber, R. L. Rash, George Birch.



PETE HAMMER'S FIRST CAR 1909.

Dr. Leech and E. S. Bowden all became car owners about the same time.

## Our Golden Wedding Days

A local couple who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary at their home in Taber on Tuesday, September 18th, 1951, are Mr. and Mrs. William Gidman. In honor of their fiftieth anniversary, Mr. and Mrs. Gidman were at home to their many friends who called during the afternoon and evening. They have been residents of Taber since September 16th, 1911. Mrs. Gidman, in her nursing capacity, was associated with Dr. A. Hamman for many years, and was

the first matron of the first Taber hospital when it was opened in 1914. Mr. Gidman was employed as tippie engineer at the Canada West Mine for a number of years, and was active in public life, serving on the town council, as well as being mayor for three years. He was later elected to the local school board, and served in the capacity of a trustee for a number of terms. Mr. and Mrs. Gidman have one son, William Ogden, who is principal of the Coutts High School.



MR. AND MRS. WM. GIDMAN

Golden Wedding Celebrants

---

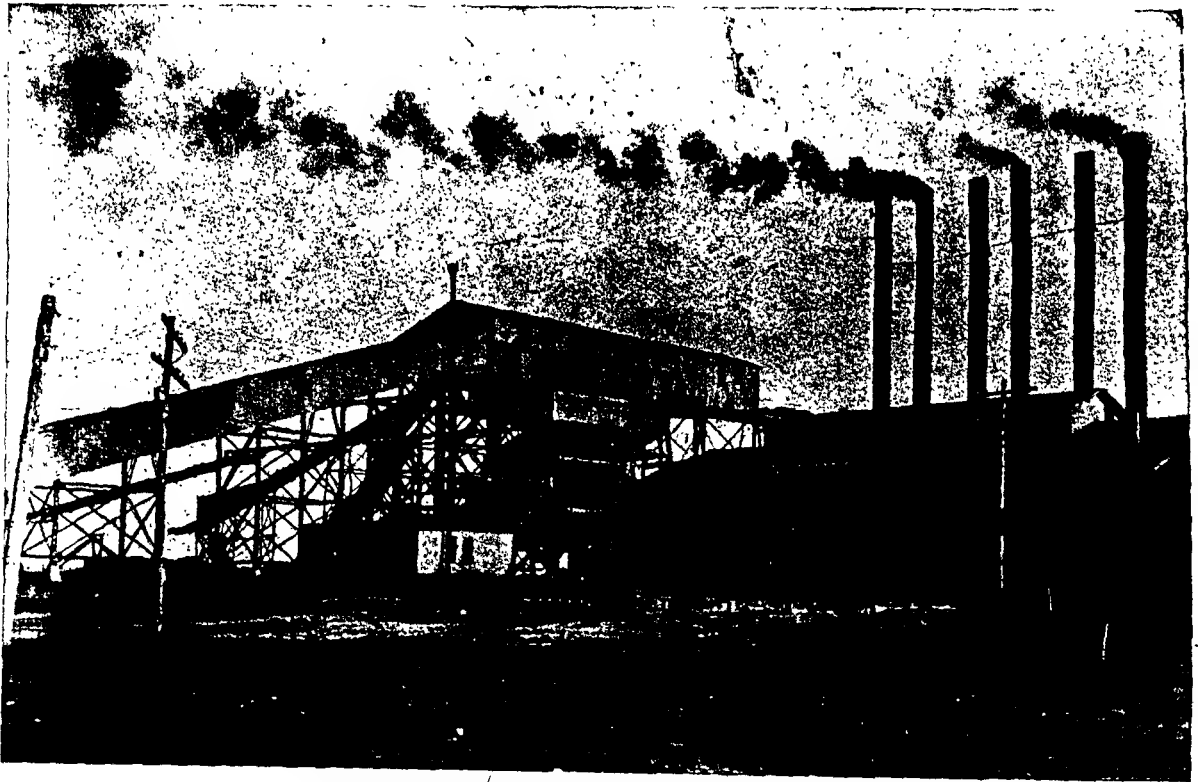
Other golden wedding anniversaries and the year in which they were celebrated are as follows: Mr. and Mrs. Adam Russell in 1924, Mr. and Mrs. John Haynes in 1925, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Larsen in 1930, Mr. and Mrs. John Carr in 1931, Mr. and Mrs. Silas Myers in 1932, Mr. and Mrs. William Pierson in 1943, Mr. and Mrs. Samson Sanderson in 1943, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Schmidt in 1943, Mr. and Mrs. George Murphy in 1945, Mr. and

Mrs. George Beverley in 1945, Mr. and Mrs. David Wilson in 1946, Mr. and Mrs. James Potts in 1947, Mr. and Mrs. Don Malo in 1948, Mr. and Mrs. George Okamoto in 1948, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Cook in 1949, Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Peterson in 1949, Mr. and Mrs. John Easthope in 1949, Mr. and Mrs. John E. Hesketh in 1949, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. McLellan in 1951, and Mr. and Mrs. David Hall also in 1951. Mr. and Mrs. R. Irving Sr. 1952.

## Taber's Coal Mines

In 1885 a water tank was built on the spot which is now Taber, by the North West Coal and Navigation Co., which operated a railway between Lethbridge and Dunmore. A pump house was erected on the river two miles north and a pipe line laid between. It is said that coal outcrops were found there that year along the river banks and two men were sent by the com-

It was later found that adjacent to Taber were 50,000 acres of coal bearing lands calling for money and initiative to develop them. The coal proved to be a good grade lignite, assaying over 50 per cent fixed carbon and burning to a fine white ash. As the mines developed Taber coal became famous across the prairies and across the border.



Taber's Coal Industry.      The Canada West Mine

pany to dig a supply of coal for the pump house. This was perhaps the first coal dug at Taber.

Bullock and Probert in 1903 staked a mine property and hiring an experienced miner named David Miller, father of Taber's theatre man, a mine was opened up. This was the pioneer Domestic Mine, which was located one mile west of town and it supplied the settlers for several years.

The Canada West mine, just west of Taber, later known as Majestic Collieries, was the major operating company. Two million dollars was the stake St. Paul capitalists put into the property; and back in 1912, before the war, 300 miners were employed. The coal was hauled from the mine by three powerful electric locomotives, the mine was electrically lighted and equipped with

a phone system. There was no gas to contend with.

Other mines in the district were the White Ash, the Superior Mines, the Rock Springs, Monarch, Golden West, Domestic and others. The daily output in the busy season from Taber totalled nearly 2,500 tons. The pay rolls at the mines totalled over \$50,000. Then as other mines opened up in other districts the coal industry suffered a slump and water seeping into the tunnels forced many to abandon their mines.

The Oliver Coal Company is one of the pioneer coal mines. Operation was started in 1909 by Edward Oliver, one mile west of Taber. In 1939 Mr. Oliver was still operating a mine in the original field, and during the thirty years the location of the mine had been changed ten times as further developments were made.

Locating a valuable site two miles north of Taber on the bank of the river in 1938, a second mine was brought into operation. Mr. Oliver's son, Kenneth, being in charge, the seam four

feet in thickness and yielding the best of coal. During the busy season they employed over thirty men and had a daily output of one hundred tons. Mines were electrically equipped and modern. This field has been producing coal continuously until the summer of 1951, when it was flooded by run-off water which entered the mine channels during the sewer construction.

Coal production at Taber is approximately 100,000 tons for the year, being mostly produced by the Alberta Southern Coal Co. at the surface mine west of Taber. During the year earth-moving contractor F. W. Lamb of Calgary, has moved some 1,200,000 yards of earth cover from the coal seam, exposing up to 100,000 tons of coal. Daily production at Alberta Southern is about 900 tons.

The Taber Coal Co. came into being late in the year on the site of the old White Ash Mine. The quality of the coal produced is the same as of earlier days when it was in great demand. Proprietor Omer Malo advises that the coal mined will be limited to local consumption. The Taber Coal Company now becomes Taber's third coal firm.



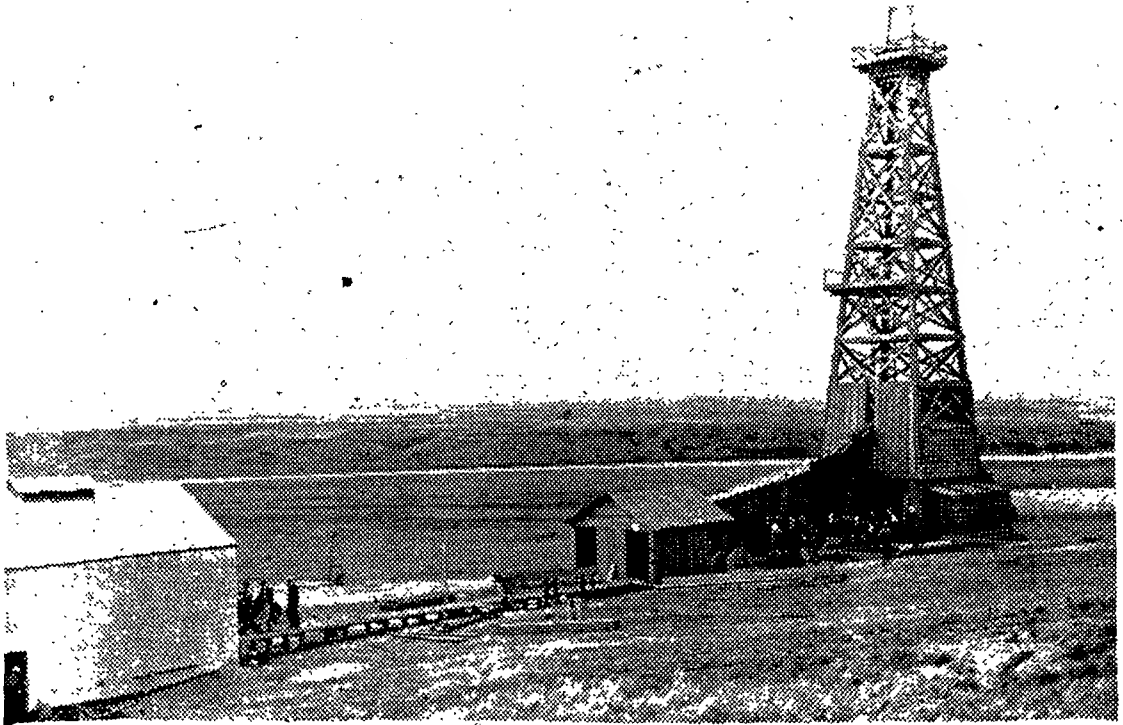
## The California Standard Company

The California Standard Company's Taber camp is located one quarter mile west of Taber on Number 3 highway. It consists of offices, garage, maintenance shop, supply depot, seven modern homes and several small cabins.

The company's east Taber field is three miles south of Taber on Sections 17-18-19 and 20, Township 9, Range 16, West of the 4th Meridian. The first well was drilled and put on production during the summer of 1942. At the present time there are seven producing wells in this field, yielding a crude oil of 18° gravity. This crude yields as products: gasoline, diesel fuel and road oil. The field has a tank battery with storage space for 2,500 barrels of oil. During 1951 east Taber's total production was 73,594 barrels of crude oil.

The company's west Taber field is located four miles west of Taber and one and one half miles south of Number 3 highway on Sections 14 and 15, Township 9, Range 17, West of the 4th Meridian. The first well was drilled and put on production during the fall of 1944. At the present time there are eleven producing wells in this field, yielding a crude oil of 23° gravity. By-products of this crude oil are chiefly gasoline and diesel fuel. West Taber tank farm has a storage capacity of 3,000 barrels of oil. During 1951 the field produced a total of 109,563 barrels of crude oil.

At the present time, fifteen employees are required in the various phases of work, that are being carried on by the company in the Taber district.



The Oil Wells.

This picture was snapped when the North Taber Royalties well was spudded; and shows the derrick, rig and general layout which overlooks the valley of the Oldman River twelve miles east and north of Taber.

## Taber's New Water Plant in Operation in 1948

During the year, 1948, a new water works system was put into operation in the Town of Taber. The supply now is adequate for all commercial and household requirements including the watering of gardens and lawns.

Work on the plant commenced in February of 1948 and was completed in November, the job taking ten months, due to difficulty and delay in delivery of equipment required.

The new plant has a present capacity of 300,000 gallons of water per day, and is arranged so that its capacity can be doubled if required.

Water is taken from about the centre of the Old Man River through a ten inch gravity pipe line which carries the water into a "deep well" inside the plant. From here it is pumped by a low lift pump up into a mixing chamber and settling tank where the purifying chemicals are added, and it is then filtered down into a 40,000 gallon clear water storage reservoir. The water is then pumped from this reservoir by two 250

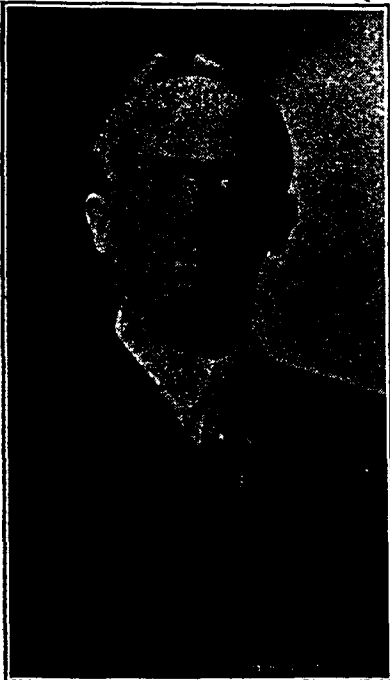
gallon per minute high lift pumps through a mile and a half of ten inch pipe line against a head of 300 feet into the town's 80,000 gallon elevated storage tank.

All of the pumps and chemical feeders are started and stopped automatically by float switches operated from the water level in the respective tanks.

The filter is of modern design and is equipped with hydraulically operated valves which are operated from a control panel in front of the filter. This arrangement enables the attendant to watch the operations going on and at the same time have everything under finger-tip control.

At a meeting of the town council, it was decided to have the head of the town's Public Works Department, Angus McKay, and his assistant, David Sinclair, take short courses at Lethbridge covering the proper operation of this modern water purification plant, so that the highest quality of pure water will be available at all times.

## THE STORY OF IRRIGATION



TED SUNDAL

The development of irrigation in this district, and the name of Ted Sundal are almost synonymous. Mr. Sundal, who has been associated with so many worth-while projects in Taber, arrived here from South Dakota in March of 1909. He was attracted to Canada by the big land rush, his mother having purchased a section of land south of Taber without even seeing it.

Mr. Sundal was keenly interested in every phase of agriculture, and in 1913 was secretary of the Taber Agricultural Society. As the outcome of a friendly conversation with another member of this society, the late Mr. R. A. VanOrman, a letter was despatched on behalf of the Agricultural Society by Mr. Sundal to the C.P.R. Natural Resources at Calgary in which he expressed the desire of several farmers in the Taber district to secure water for irrigating their farms.

At that time, there was a ditch known as the Bountiful Ditch ten miles west of Taber. This was a ditch which had been surveyed for the purpose of diverting water to the coulee a half mile northwest of Barnwell and utilizing the supply for steam power purposes in coal mining. As the development also solved a stock watering problem, a group of Barnwell farmers agreed to assist with the ditching work. The ditch was approximately eight miles long from a small dam in the coulee about two miles northeast of Chin. The ditch had been constructed in 1908, and the first stream was turned into the ditch in June of 1909.

To get back to the original story, the first meeting of farmers was held on Saturday, November 8th, 1913 in the town hall at Taber. Twenty-

eight farmers and business men attended, and Mr. Geo. E. Ewing was elected chairman, and Ted Sundal, as secretary of the meeting. At this meeting, the preliminary groundwork was laid for the irrigation scheme. At a later meeting held in November, 1913, a committee was elected, consisting of Hans Hansen, Lawrence Peterson, John W. Anderson and Ted Sundal, to go to Calgary for a conference with officials in charge of the department of natural resources of the C.P.R.

At this first meeting, the C.P.R. officials clearly pointed out to the delegation from Taber that the C.P.R. were not sponsoring or proposing to construct an irrigation scheme.

During the next year and a half until the month of May, 1915, the committee held many meetings, both in committee and public gatherings. Some of the questions under consideration were ways and means of financing a bond issue, construction costs of the project and the formation of an Irrigation Act for the province. After much negotiation, finally in 1915, the provincial legislature passed an act governing irrigation in the province.

In June, 1915, after a vote was taken, the Taber Irrigation District was organized. A board of trustees, with Carl C. Cook as chairman, and Ted Sundal as secretary-treasurer was elected. The boundaries of the voted project included the area from Chin to half a mile east of Taber. During the next few years many problems, connected with the construction, were dealt with by the committee in charge.

During the years of the Great War, advancing costs in material and labor made it necessary to revise construction costs. With the termination of the war, a construction agreement based on a cost of \$16 per irrigable acre was signed up on the 12th of July, 1919. On the 26th of July, 1919, a vote was taken at the farm home of Mr. Wilbur Cook, on a by-law to authorize a thirty year debenture issue of \$272,000.00 to construct the irrigation project. The vote results were 42 in favor and none against. The first sod was turned on July 24th, 1919, on the land owned by the late Bert Holman. Crandall Brothers were the contractors. Mr. B. L. Cooke, K.C., was appointed solicitor for the district on the 11th of August, 1919.



RASPBERRIES RIPE — 1936 — Mr. C. A. Kullberg's raspberry patch from which he shipped seven hundred cases of canned raspberries to Campbell, Wilson & Horne of Lethbridge.



On February 23rd, 1920, the bonds to finance the construction were signed up at the Bank of Montreal in Lethbridge. The bonds are dated August 1st, 1919. During the months of May and June in 1920, there were a number of severe wind and dust storms which, in many cases, completely filled in large sections of newly constructed ditches. It cost the C.P.R. approximately \$16,000.00 to remove the soil drift.

The dust storms also destroyed the hopes of farmers in their anticipation of seeing running water in the ditches by the first of July of that summer. However, the first water to prime the system was turned on at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, September 10th, 1920. Mr. S. G. Porter, at the time operating superintendent of the Lethbridge C.P.R. project, and Mr. Ted Sundal were the only two present to perform the important ceremony.

It was a rare thrill to watch the first stream coursing down the canal and realizing this event was the turning point for a people who so frequently had lost their crops through drought. The dried-out stock watering ponds and fodder shortages were acute problems at times but now

the stream was actually on the way to solve that difficulty. Some of the early hopes were achieved in the construction of a canning factory in 1934, and beet factory in 1950.

The following men have served as members of the Board throughout the years: Carl C. Cook, John W. Anderson, and Lawrence Peterson comprised the first Board and their successors have been: J. T. Willard, Wm. Valgardson, the late T. W. Harris, the late Samuel E. Ayers; B. A. Stringham, the late H. N. Peterson, the late Carson B. Hill, B. R. McMullin, Nephi J. Jensen, Wilbern S. Johnson, Edwin N. Francis and Frank P. Stevens. The agricultural achievements in converting a dry land wheat area to a highly specialized irrigation production are numerous and varied. Many forms of production have been experimented with. Some have succeeded and others abandoned.

The success of our district has been due, in no small measure, to the irrigation project. Mr. Ted Sundal, who still holds the position as secretary-treasurer of the Taber Irrigation District, refers to it as "liquid manna", which it has truly proved to be.

#### Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration Activities at Taber

"Surveys and construction for the St. Mary Milk River Development under the supervision of the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration began actively in the Taber area during the summer of 1948 when locations were made for the main canal between Chin Reservoir and Horsefly Lake, and for laterals of the Big Bend Distribution System north of Taber. In 1949 main canal surveys were carried as far east as Burdett and construction began on the Big Bend area, and on Horsefly Lake Reservoir. In 1950 construction was completed on approximately 10,000 acres of the Big Bend Tract and water deliveries started in June of that year. Also the main canal for Eastern extension out of Chin Reservoir was built to Forty Mile Coulee, south of Burdett. In 1951 work began on 5,000 additional acres of irrigation in the Fincastle area.

During the year 1952 the main canal will be put into operation to Horsefly Lake Reservoir, and distributaries for approximately 10,000 acres south of Horsefly Lake and north east of Fincastle will be completed, bringing the total extension of irrigation within the Taber area to approximately 20,000 acres. This work includes the completion of three reservoirs, Horsefly Lake, Taber Lake and Fincastle Lake, having a total storage of 14,000 acre feet, for use by The Canadian Sugar Factories Ltd., and the Big Bend and Fincastle districts. Total expenditures for this development to Horsefly Lake including 1952 estimates, will amount to nearly \$1,200,000. Within the next few years there will be another 9,000 acres developed making the total irrigable area in the Taber district around 53,000 acres."

AERIAL VIEW OF TABER IN 1950



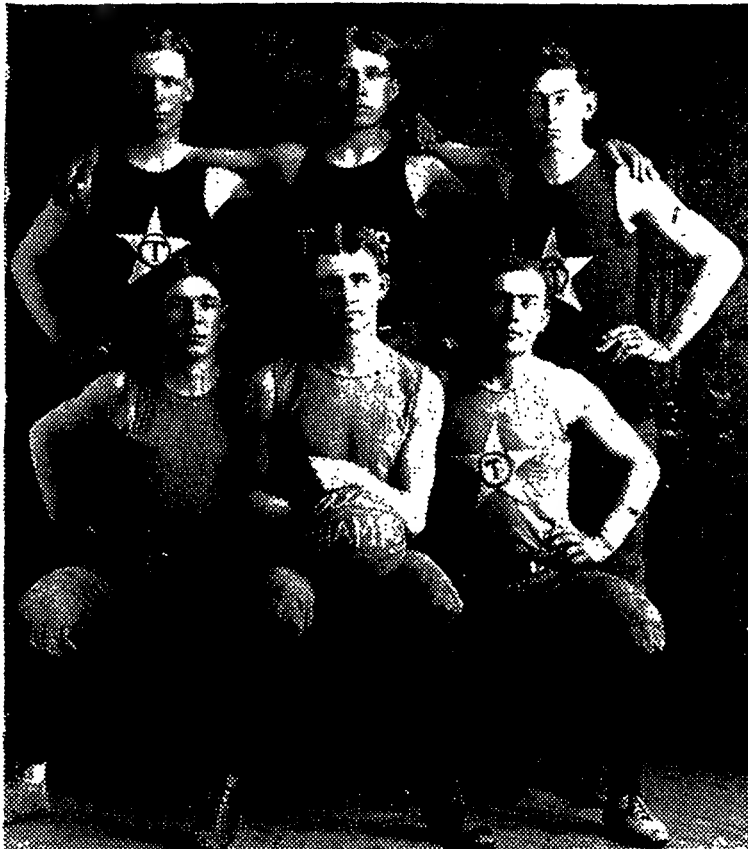
**Re: Dominion Experimental Irrigation Substation:**

For the present, the main project is located on land rented from the town of Taber, and situated within the town limits. The area under lease consists of some 32 acres on the S.E. ¼ of Section 5 just West of the Sugar Factory.

Actual work was begun in 1949 with the object of determining the irrigation requirements, consumptive use, and seasonal use of water applied by surface irrigation, and required for various levels of production up to maximum yields and quality under different soil and climatic conditions and various levels of fertility as affected by crop rotation and ammonium phosphate fertilizer.

The technical staff of the project is headed by Mr. W. L. Jacobson, Research Officer, assisted by Mr. L. G. Sonmor, Technical Officer, with other positions of technicians and assistant technicians being filled in with student help and rate of pay employee.

At the time of printing, insufficient time has elapsed for any conclusive information to be given concerning the results obtained to date in the work on this project. However, when the results are published, they will be invaluable for use by water administrative authorities, irrigation engineers and water users, particularly so far as the Canadian prairies are concerned.



**BOYS' BASKET BALL TEAM, 1907 — CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS**

Upper Row: Walter Matthews, Evan Evanson, Bert Anderson.  
Lower Row: Hiram Evans, Will Valgardson, Charles Edwards.

## Taber's Canning Industry

With the unceasing and commendable efforts of Mr. Ted Sundal, the pioneer vegetable producing and canning of Southern Alberta was established in 1934. The Broder Canning Co., in co-operation with the Taber irrigation district and the Town of Taber, built their first plant here.

The first year a small initial run during the latter part of August and the month of September, three hundred acres of corn, or 20,000 cases, and twenty-five acres of pumpkins, 7,000 cases, were processed. One hundred and fifty acres of dry beans and one hundred acres of seed peas were grown for the Canning factory.

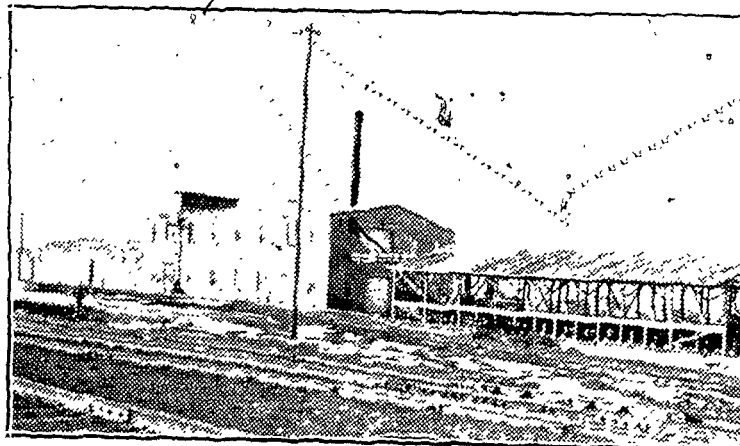
The following year green peas and string beans were added for processing. As the products established themselves on store shelves the size

of the plant increased as well as the contracted acreage in the area.

In February, 1948, the plant was taken over by Canada Safeway Stores under the name of Cornwall Canning Co. and equipped with the most modern machinery available. Plans for a new plant are ready for future expansion. At the present time approximately four hundred employees are required during peak operation.

Approximately twelve hundred acres of corn, one thousand acres of peas, one hundred acres of beans and a small acreage of red beets, miscellaneous lines, such as pork and beans, and pumpkins are processed, together with lima beans, spaghetti, red kidney beans and beans and wieners.

In cooperation with the Dominion Experimental Station here, tomatoes for canning are being developed.



TABER CANNING FACTORY  
An integral part of the industrial life of Taber.

## A Sweet Story!

Mr. George C. Riedel came to Taber in 1929, purchased the building on the South Side, which had been formerly used as a Liquor Store, and went into the honey business the following year. Mr. Riedel constructed a little cottage from mud and straw to live in, and cultivated the yard surrounding the cottage into a veritable show-place, bright with flowers. Mr. Riedel also opened up a honey business in the neighbouring village of Coaldale. Later on, the business was taken over by Messrs. B. L. Cooke, L. T. Westlake, and Don Malo, and managed by Mr. Ray Hawthorn. The business was also extended to Vauxhall,

and in order to keep the three honey producing plants operating, there were 2400 hives of bees. Employment was given to many local residents. As many as 14 carloads of honey were shipped to market in a single season. Years later, the honey crops were quite small, and the Riedel Honey Company sold out to a Winnipeg concern.

Mr. James Brown worked for the honey company for over ten years, learned the business, and had a few hives as a hobby. Mr. Brown, at this time, has 125 colonies. There are also a number of small beekeepers in this district. Most of the honey is produced from sweet clover, the pure white variety of clover.

---

## Sugar and Taber

While no sugar beets were grown in the Taber district during the early 1900's when the Knight Sugar Company operated a plant at Raymond, yet there were many Taber farmers who were experienced in beet raising, having come from the States to the south where the beet was cultivated.

With the establishment of the Taber Irrigation District in the early 1920's, it became apparent that intensified farming was necessary for economical use of the land, and a number of Taber men assisted in the movement which included the Utah-Idaho Sugar Company of Salt Lake City to erect a factory at Raymond in 1925. Beet growing in those early years had its ups and downs, with Alberta's unpredictable weather. Beets were frozen in the ground, and much loss was sustained by both company and grower. But since 1925, lessons have been learned and unlearned, and beets have become a basic part in the economy of the irrigated areas.

In 1931 the Raymond factory was sold to the British Columbia Sugar Refining Company of Vancouver, B. C., and gradual and firm expansion of the industry has been felt since that time. This work began with the renovation and capacity increase of the Raymond factory. In 1935 an agreement was reached with government officials for the erection of a second plant, and in the fall of that year the factory at Picture Butte commenced building. With an adequate supply of materials and man power, that plant

was completed at amazing speed, and was slicing beets in slightly more than one year after construction commenced.

In 1940 the Southern Alberta Beet Growers Association felt the need for a third factory, and made representations to the company that a third factory should be built in the Taber-Barnwell area. A tentative site was selected at Barnwell, but the impossibility of construction during the war period delayed the program until 1946 when it was finally decided to build at Taber. This decision coincided with the starting of construction on the St. Mary Milk River Development program, by which the irrigated areas would extend far to the east of Taber. The site located was close to an adequate water supply, but disposal of waste waters created a problem, as it was over two miles to a disposal site at the Old Man River to the north, and the low elevation of the site required the use of pumps to move the waste products over the higher ground between site and river.

Following the decision of the sugar company to build the third Alberta factory at Taber, every effort was bent toward completion of the project in time to handle the 1949 crop of sugar beets. Design and engineering was done by Stearns Roger Manufacturing Company of Denver, Colorado, long experienced in sugar machinery and building design, and their work was complemented by the engineering departments of the company at Vancouver, B.C., and Taber. Dominion

Construction Company, of Vancouver held the contract for the erection of the buildings, while a company crew erected the steel and placed the machinery.

Actual construction work began early in the spring of 1947 when temporary buildings were provided for materials, railway trackage laid, natural gas lines provided, and a water supply arranged. The main buildings being of reinforced concrete construction, vast stock piles of sand and gravel were laid in, and a central concrete mixing plant built from which the material was hauled to location by truck.

Excavation for the foundation of the huge sugar storage bins commenced late in May, and during the same year the bins were completed, and a number of other buildings commenced. During the same period, earth was moved in to the beet storage ground, and the main factory water supply line installed from the Taber reservoir.

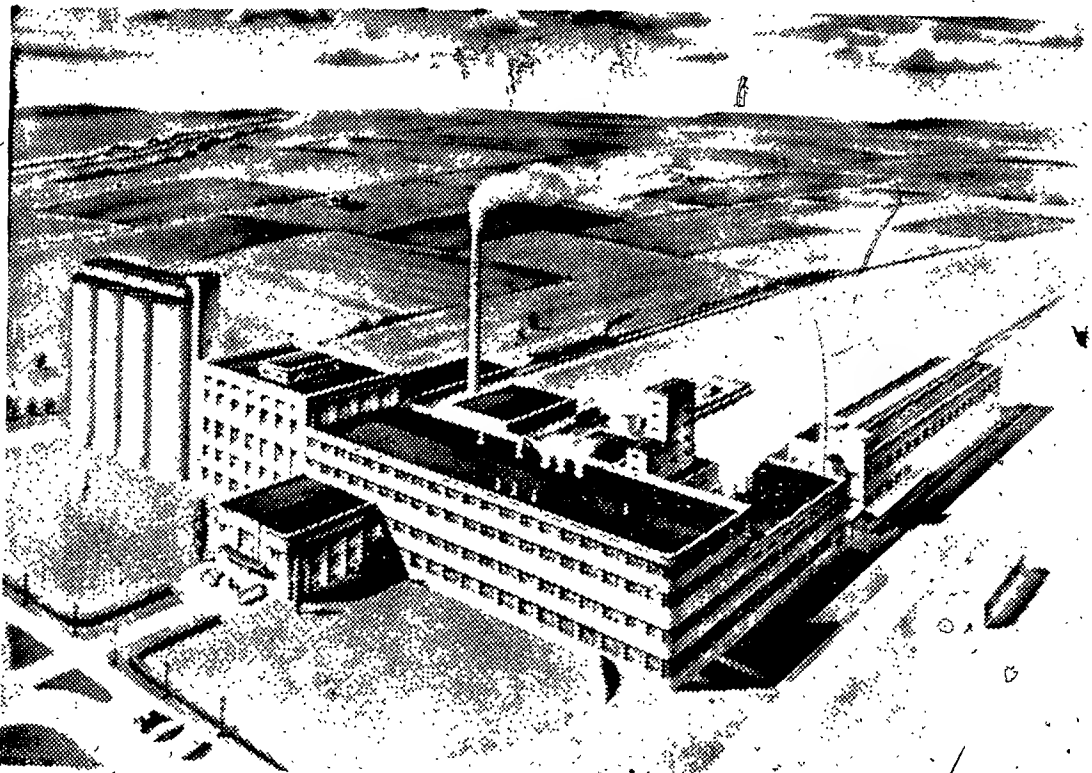
From that time on, labor crews increased, and work progressed at a steady rate. It was soon

evident that the slowness of machinery and steel delivery would prevent the completion of the plant in the scheduled period, and the date of completion was set back one year. As months went by, various buildings were completed, and machinery installed, and it was not until the spring of 1950 that the concrete floors were finished and the bulk of the equipment in place.

Early in 1950 the office staff moved from temporary quarters into the spacious office building.

The power boilers and electrical equipment were given an initial test-out in April, and with the installation of numerous control devices, the factory was ready to slice the first sugar beets of the 1950 crop.

Initial cost estimates had to be revised as material and labor costs rose, and the factory when completed cost approximately \$5,500,000, bringing Canadian Sugar Factories Ltd. investment in southern Alberta well over the \$10,000,000 mark. The plant has proved to be a remarkable asset to the Taber community.



TABER'S SUGAR FACTORY

## For Those Who Like Sports

For the sports-minded, there is no lack of activity in Taber. In the summer there are baseball games, and in the winter hockey games and skating at the new Civic Centre. There is an active badminton club and tennis club. Basketball is also a favorite sport, particularly among the high school students. Bowling is

another popular pastime. There are commercial and social leagues as well as casual bowling at the King Pin Bowling Alleys. There is a Men's Curling Club and a Ladies' Curling Club. Curlers take part in outside bonspiels and have brought many honors to the local club. There are also bonspiels held at the local club during the winter months.

## For Theatre Goers

The Rex Theatre and the Tower Theatre are popular gathering-places for the theatre-going public. The Tower Theatre, completed in 1949,

is a fine, modern theatre. These theatres, known as the Miller Theatres, are owned and operated by Douglas Miller.



GIRLS' BASKET BALL TEAM — 1907

Names: Estella Anderson, Estella Probert, Harriet Collett, Lenora Collett,  
Margaret VanOrman, Honnie Love, Mercy Lindsey, Geneva Wing,  
Matilda Walton, Ada Wilcox.

## History of Printing and Publishing in Taber

The history of printing and publishing in Taber goes back to the spring of 1906, when the names of Milton L. Scott and Mr. Bellwood appear, the first printing shop being set up in the building across the street from the present fire hall, now being used for a shoe repair shop.

Taber's first paper was called the "Taber Free Press" and was published at the above mentioned shop until Mr. Bellwood's death in 1909. After the passing of Mr. Bellwood the printing office was taken over by his nephew, Ernest Cook, who changed the name to "The Taber Advertiser". Old copies of the Advertiser still available and dated 1910, state that the paper was published by the Advertiser Publishing Co.

In May 1911 Colin Groff came to Taber from Lethbridge, where he had been employed on the editorial staff of the Lethbridge Herald. Mr. Groff purchased the plant of The Taber Advertiser from Mr. Cook and after the first few editions changed the name of the paper to The Taber Times, and published the paper from the present site of the Times. A few years later Mr. Groff was offered the position of publicity commissioner for the Alberta government, which he accepted and filled that capacity for some considerable time; he now holds the position of secretary-treasurer for The Canadian Federation of Agriculture.

In the latter part of 1918 the plant was operated for a short time by W. P. Cotton, the former publisher of the Bow Island Review, but Mr. Cotton and family soon left for Victoria, B.C., where he operated the Varsity Book Shop. The next publisher of the "Times" was T. W. Green, who acquired the plant following his return from overseas, where he served in World War I. During the summer of 1927 Mr. Green made a trip to the coast and decided to start a paper at Powell River, B.C., therefore in October 1927 arrangements were completed with the present publisher, Arthur H. Avery, and Mr. Green took a quantity of the equipment and moved to Powell River and operated the paper there for a good number of years. Mr. and Mrs. Green are now retired and are living in Vancouver, B.C.

Soon after acquiring the plant the present owner installed considerable new equipment and renovated the building. The splendid assistance of the publisher's sister, Miss Margaret Avery, enabled the paper to continue during the depression years and serve the community. Miss Avery is now retired in Calgary, where she and her mother, Mrs. Charles Avery, are living.

The plant and staff of the Taber Times are now considered one of the best in Southern Alberta, and plans are now underway to enlarge and modernize the premises.





## In Conclusion

This, then, has been our history, past and present, and we feel we are now standing on the threshold of a future, even more glorious than the past. Much of the information we have been able to glean from the annals of the past, has been a revelation even to those of us responsible for the compilation of the history. If any important historical events have been omitted, our deepest apologies to those concerned. We have done our utmost to draw a true picture of the Taber of yesterday and today.

During the time of the compilation of our history, we have rejoiced with the thousands of people across Canada in welcoming our Royal visitors in the fall of 1951. We mourned

with thousands of loyal Canadian subjects when our beloved monarch, George VI, passed away in February of 1952. Recalling his memorable broadcast to his people at Christmas time in 1939, we thought that he, himself, "went forth and finding the hand of God trod gladly into the night. And He led me toward the hills and the breaking of the day in the lone east".

The sceptre of monarchy has been thrust upon our lovely visitor of just a few months previous. We, who have watched Elizabeth from the time of her birth until her recent accession to the throne, know that the Empire is still in good hands. We are eagerly anticipating, therefore, this new Elizabethan era which has just begun.

# Taber's Business Places---1952

## ARMATURE WINDING

John Hector

## BAKERS:

Bland's Bakery  
Taber Bakery  
Taber Bake Shop

Bland Bros.  
Jack Browning  
W. R. Jones

## BARBER SHOPS:

Central Barber Shop  
Karras Billiards and Barber Shop  
Les' Billiards and Barber Shop  
Treber's Barber Shop  
Sorensen Barber Shop

Lychak Bros.  
Karras Bros.  
J. Leslie Coombes  
Louie Treber  
Ed Sorensen

## BEAUTY PARLORS:

Holt's Beauty Shoppe  
Modern Beauty Shop

Mrs. Grant Holt  
Doris Noble and Mary Hughes

## BOWLING ALLEY:

King Pin

Henry Stockl

## BANKS:

Bank of Nova Scotia  
Bank of Montreal  
Canadian Bank of Commerce

C. J. Borm  
Geo. Vandervoort  
H. J. Harrison

## CAFES:

Cameo Cafe and Groceries  
Cap's Java Shop  
Rex Coffee Shop  
Shanghai Cafe  
Wyatt's Coffee Shop

Gordon How  
Geo. Capton  
J. Lucas and J. Pontikes  
Fan Yee  
Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Wyatt  
C. McGuire

## CALGARY POWER LTD.

## CANNERIES:

Broder Canning Co.  
Cornwall Canning Co.

Tom Herashima  
Bill Westhara

## CHALETs:

Taber Chalet-  
Modern Cabins

J. C. Baird  
D. G. Marshall

## CLOTHING STORES:

Anderson and Son  
Bodie Bros.  
Davies Style Shoppe  
R. C. A. Store  
Vickery and Co.

R. H. and R. L. Anderson  
W. Bodie and J. M. Bodie  
Victoria and Harvey Davies  
H. H. Bartram  
Harvey Vickery

## COAL OFFICE:

Alberta Southern

C. C. Cook

## CONCRETE PRODUCTS:

Dominion Concrete Products

S. P. and O. B. Richards

## DAIRY:

Crystal Dairy Products  
Purity Dairy

Stan Williams  
Ken Garries

## DENTISTS:

Dr. Robert Lynn  
Dr. R. D. Lamb

# TABER — YESTERDAY AND TODAY

## DOCTORS:

Dr. A. Hamman  
Dr. H. J. Muth  
Dr. H. A. Muth  
Dr. C. R. Bradford  
Dr. J. R. Enman  
Dr. A. A. Gorman  
Dr. R. E. Anderson

## DRUG STORES:

Central Drug Co. .... Wilson Wright  
Taber Drug ..... Cecil Johnson

## DRY-CLEANERS:

Superlor Dry Cleaners ..... S. Thanaselos  
Taber Dry Cleaners ..... M. V. Lowry

## ELEVATORS:

Alberta Wheat Pool ..... J. A. Sloane  
Alberta Pacific Grain Co. .... B. F. Kerkhoff  
Pioneer Grain Co. .... George Whitehead  
United Grain Growers Co. .... Peter Lindquist

## ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES:

Campbell Electric ..... Peter Campbell  
Parker Electric ..... Horace and Albert Parker

## EXPERIMENTAL STATION

..... W. L. Jacobson

## CANADIAN SUGAR FACTORIES LTD.

Edwin H. Price, Superintendent

## FEED:

Taber Feed Mill ..... Henry Nickel

## FLOWER SHOP:

White's Flower & Gift Shop ..... Bruce and Eileen White

## FUNERAL HOME:

Humphries Funeral Home ..... George Humphries

## FURNITURE STORES:

Platt's Furniture ..... V. Jerome Platt  
Taber Furniture Co. .... W. T. Neilson

## CANADIAN WESTERN NATURAL GAS COMPANY

O. Koch, Representative

## GROCERY STORES:

Fong Bros. Grocery ..... Fong Brothers  
Hi-Way Grocery ..... Fred Petzel  
Jenkins Groceteria ..... Wm. Schuler  
J. K. How & Co. .... J. K. How  
North End Grocery ..... Gil Harvie  
Pat's Groceteria ..... R. C. Paterson  
Red and White Grocery ..... L. Krchnak  
Taber Meat & Grocery ..... Wm. Tucker, Fred Snell and H. Vickery  
Variety Store ..... Albert Pawlowki

## HATCHERIES:

Gorbich Electric Hatchery ..... Steve Gorbich  
Maple Tree Hatchery ..... Geo. A. Hutchinson

## HARDWARE STORES:

Beaver Hardware ..... Jack Goertzen  
Stewart Hardware ..... Alex. Stewart  
Henderson Hardware ..... E. O. Henderson  
Uptown Hardware ..... William Peta

## TABER MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL:

# TABER — YESTERDAY AND TODAY

## HOTELS:

Palace  
Royal

Thos. Mancini  
G. J. and S. Bonette

## IMPLEMENT DEALERS:

|                             |                         |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| John Deere Implements       | Wallace McDonald        |
| Cockshutt Sales and Service | R. Napper               |
| Mechanics Sales Ltd.        | J. W. Danielson         |
| International Harvester     | C. Jamieson & T. Strain |
| Machinery (General)         | R. J. Schonert          |
| Massey-Harris Company       | W. R. Hackett           |

## JEWELLERS:

|                      |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Kinniburgh Jewellery | J. M. Kinniburgh |
| Hirsche's Jewellery  | L. D. Hirsche    |

## LAUNDRIES:

|                  |                        |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Jake's Laundry   | Jake Langeman          |
| Sing Lee Laundry | How Dan and associates |

## LAWYER:

|                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Cooke & Pritchard | Fred Pritchard |
|-------------------|----------------|

## GOVERNMENT LIQUOR STORE

A. J. Stuart, Manager

## LOCKER SERVICE:

|                                       |               |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| Taber Frozen Foods and Locker Service | Arnold Odland |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|

## LUMBER YARDS:

|                     |               |
|---------------------|---------------|
| Atlas Lumber Co.    | Ural Lawrence |
| Beaver Lumber Co.   | J. C. Pierson |
| Citizens Lumber Co. | Dennis Petz   |

## MODERN AUTO BODY SHOP

George Nessman

## NEWS STAND

John Thompson

## MAIL ORDER OFFICE — R. SIMPSON CO. LTD.

Mrs. Frances Pittaway

## OPTOMETRIST

N. S. Boyle

## OIL PRODUCTS:

|                              |               |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| B. A. Oil Products           | Wm. Williams  |
| California Standard Co.      | John Fleming  |
| Great West Distributors Ltd. |               |
| Imperial Oil                 | W. R. Hackett |

## PAINT SHOPS:

|                                      |                  |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| Bill's Paint and Decorating Supplies | D. W. Kinniburgh |
| Taber Motor Co. Ltd.                 | A. L. Cannon     |

## PAINTERS AND DECORATORS:

D. W. Kinniburgh  
J. Johansen and C. Edwards.

## PICKLING PLANT:

|                |                      |
|----------------|----------------------|
| Dysons Limited | M. Johnson in charge |
|----------------|----------------------|

## PROPANE DEALER:

Keith Harris

## PLUMBERS:

|                         |                              |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Taber Plumbing          | G. Alexander and F. Freeland |
| Gier and Craig Plumbing | G. Gier and J. A. Craig      |
| Malo Plumbing & Heating | Pat Malo                     |

## PRINTING OFFICE:

|             |                 |
|-------------|-----------------|
| Taber Times | Arthur H. Avery |
|-------------|-----------------|

## TABER — YESTERDAY AND TODAY

### REAL ESTATE AND INSURANCE:

Long & Long; Hugh M. Nicol; Geo. H. Savage; James Pritchard

### SERVICE STATIONS AND GARAGES:

|                              |                           |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Central Motors               | H. J. Berlin              |
| Little Chief Service Station | S. W. Neilson             |
| Perdue's Garage              | Nels E. Perdue            |
| Hi-Way Service               | A. G. Calder              |
| Taber Auto Body Shop         | R. Christensen & R. Evans |
| Wood Motors                  | James D. Wood             |
| Whitney Motors               | R. L. Whitney             |
| Wittmier Garage              | Wittmier Brothers         |
| Superior Motors              | S. W. Neilson             |

SPORTING GOODS STORE & PROVINCIAL LICENSE BUREAU E. N. Harding

BRANCH SOUTHERN ALBERTA CO-OP. W. B. Ackerman

TABER EXCHANGE STORE Fred Schneider

WALK-RITE SHOE STORE James Dumas

### SHOE REPAIRS:

Hanzel Shoe Repair: Mario Perini, Fred Potiuk, Ted Bastura

GEORGE'S SHEET METAL George Wing

PHOTOGRAPHIC STUDIO Art Luehr

TABER BUILDING SUPPLIES P. T. Malo

### THEATRES:

Tower and Rex Douglas L. Miller

### TIRE SHOP:

Stan's Tire Stanley Bartram

TABER TRANSPORT Eric Wilkins

### TAXIS:

Les' Taxi J. L. Truswell

Taber Taxi A. Bruce Finch and Jos. Miller

TABER 5c TO \$1.00 STORE Edward Engwer

### WELDING & MACHINE SHOPS:

Central Welding & Machine Shop F. M. Hattori

Farago Machine Shop Mike Farago

Jensen's Welding Weste Jensen

Taber Machine Shop Arthur H. Avery

VETERINARY SURGEON: Dr. R. S. Little

WOODWORKING & SAW FILING George and Robert Irving Sr.